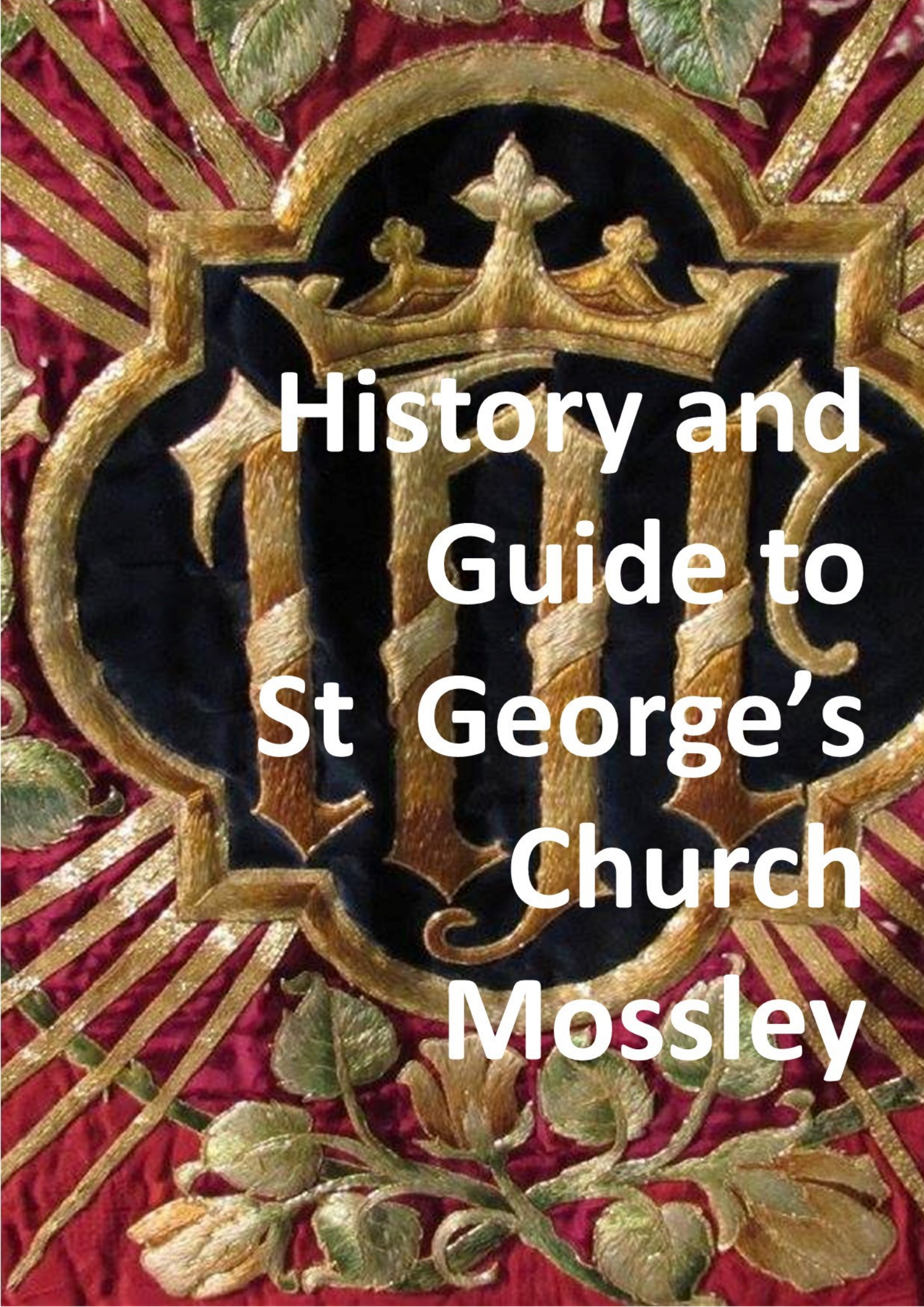


History and Guide to St George's Church Mossley



Foreword

Thank you for buying this book. During 2019 I approached Shirley Howard, Rita Vaughan, and Kathryn Young and asked them to conserve the church archive - which was in total disarray having never been properly ordered. From those first searches (and a lot of throwing away and shredding) we now have an ordered archive which awaits proper conservation, and this marvellous book contains so many gems of detail which were only found thanks to the careful searches which were done! History is important - to Christians and to all of us - only by seeing where we have come from can we fully understand why we are where we are and who we are. A church building is a repository of memory - this building has silently witnessed many generations and been a place to which folk have come, in good times and bad, for all sorts of reasons. This book allows us to properly appreciate the generous benefactors who built, and who have maintained and beautified this place, to the glory of God, in memory of their loved ones, and often with future generations in mind. I hope you enjoy this book, and through it, gain a greater appreciation for this precious church for which we are the present custodians. We continue our work of keeping it, enhancing it, and preparing to hand it on, with the faith it proclaims, confidently to the next generation. *Father David Warner SCP, Vicar of Mossley*

This "History and Guide of St George's Church, Mossley"
was created for the 2020 Heritage Open Days
which unfortunately were cancelled due to Covid 19.

Front Cover

Red Coloured Altar Frontal

Inside Front Cover

The St George Stained Glass Window

Inside Rear Cover

The Chancel Floor
and the restored funeral bier

Rear Cover

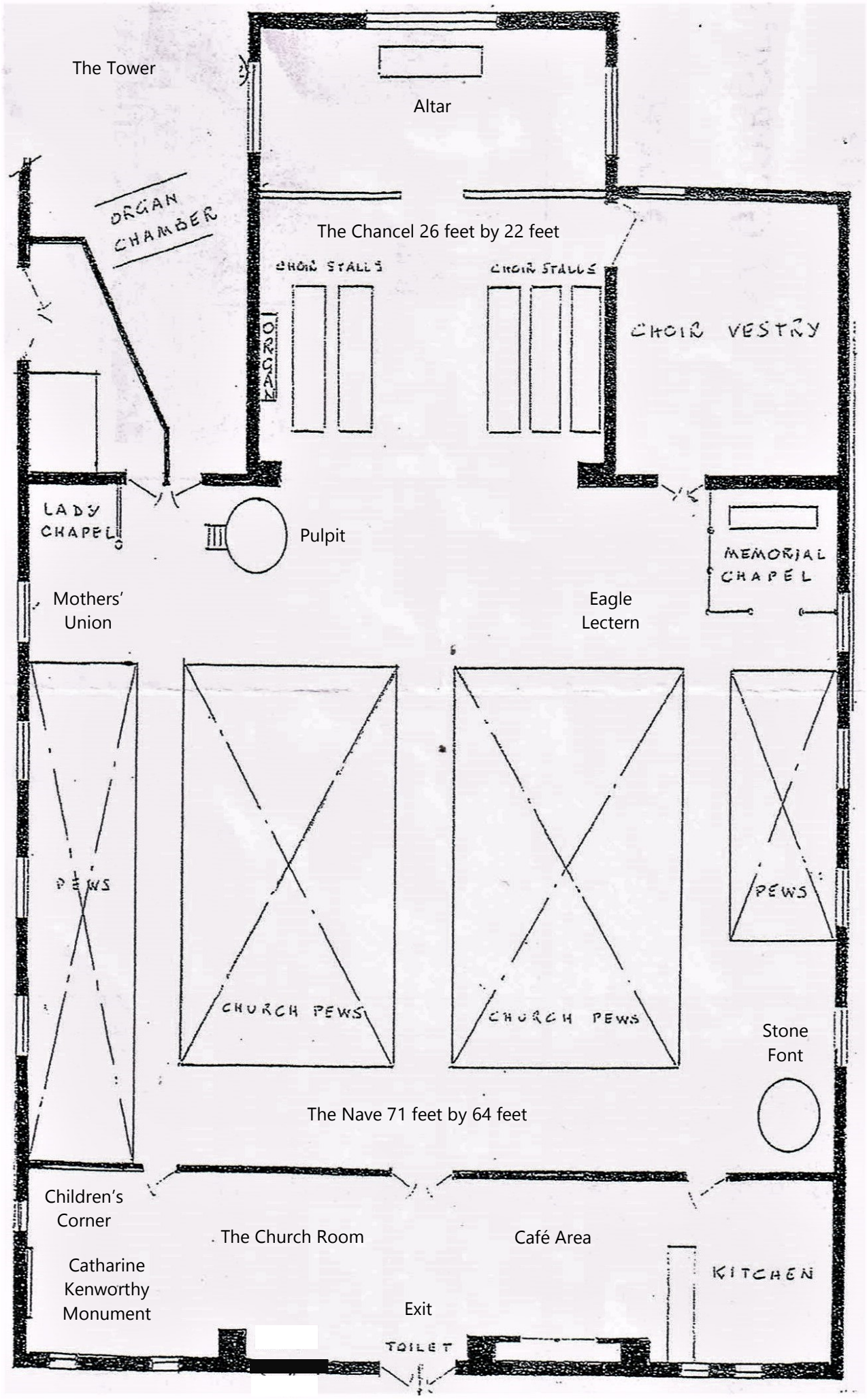
The Rose Stained Glass Window

Here is the Church, Here is the Steeple, Look Inside, Here are the People

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The Tower
Altar
ORGAN CHAMBER
The Chancel 26 feet by 22 feet
CHOIR STALLS
CHOIR STALLS
ORGAN
CHOIR VESTRY
LADY CHAPEL
Pulpit
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Mothers' Union
Eagle Lectern
PEWS
CHURCH PEWS
CHURCH PEWS
PEWS
Stone Font
The Nave 71 feet by 64 feet
Children's Corner
The Church Room
Café Area
KITCHEN
Catharine Kenworthy Monument
Exit
TOILET

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Until 1860 the first St George's was always referred to as a Chapel, that is, for most of its existence.
Throughout this book, to ensure clear distinction between the two Church buildings,
the first St George's is always referred to as St George's Chapel,
and the second St George's is always referred to as St George's Church.

The First St George's Chapel

The first St George's Chapel in Mossley was built in 1755 as a Chapel of Ease, the mother church being St Michael's, in Ashton-under-Lyne. The Chapel was built by subscription, the greatest subscriptions being from William Kenworthy 30 guineas (£31 10s) (£31 50p), Robert Lees 26 guineas (£27 6s) (£27 30p), and Thomas Seel 12 guineas (£12 12s) (£12 60p). The Chapel cost £600 to build, was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester in 1757, was enlarged with the addition of two windows in 1786, and was taken down in 1885. The 1786 extension increased the Chapel's seating capacity to 600. That Chapel would have had, just like St Chad's in Uppermill, an earth floor, this allowed for burials within the Chapel, and it is known that some of the earliest incumbents were buried inside this Chapel. The Chapel stood in the north-east corner of the grounds. That corner is now bordered by the Wyre Street and the Fire Station boundary walls. The land for the Chapel, known as the higher croft, had been given by Joseph Pickford of Alt Hill, and a James Buckley. The timber was given by the Earl of Stamford. The building contractors were James Mills of Hartshead and Matthew Slater of Dukinfield. Edward Hardy of Mossley built the pulpit for 18 guineas (£18 18s) (£18 90p), he had carried out similar work at the new Chapel at Hey. Access to the Chapel was via the Church Way, which went through the Bull's Head Arch, the lease for this house, taken by James Buckley, had begun in 1690. At first the Chapel may not have had any pews, but there were pews by 1759—at the First Chapel Wardens Meeting it was agreed to pay John Nield, the First Clerk, sixpence a seat for clerking. In 1803 it was agreed to have an Organ built for the Chapel, and a Vestry Meeting held in 1806 agreed to pay an Organist, when elected, the sum of ten guineas per annum (£10 10s) (£10 50p).

On 28 May 1884 a Special Meeting was held and the decision made was to sell off the interior fittings of the old Chapel, the proceeds to be given to the New Church Building Fund. The sale took place on 5 July 1884. Mr Joseph Fearns Lawton, of Bowden, a native of Mossley, purchased the pulpit, font, communion rail, and a large number of pews. Revd H T Fletcher, a former assistant curate at St George's old Chapel (1844—1846) purchased the old organ for £60 for the church at Bicker, near Boston in Lincolnshire, where Revd Fletcher was now the Vicar. This old organ, which was built by a Mr Donaldson of York and had come to Mossley by 1806, was still in use in 1983. A Vestry Meeting held in 1885 decided to pull down the old "dilapidated and insanitary" Chapel, except for the South West Corner, which today is the only remaining part of the Chapel, and holds the John Whitworth monument, which can be seen on the bottom right-hand side of the gable of the Chapel in the photograph below.





The Bull's Head Arch, Mossley
By Steven Bruce, whose close family members attended the school.
http://www.stevenbruceart.co.uk/

The First Baptism

The first Baptism at St George's Chapel was that of *Daniel Slater, on 8 August 1756*.
Daniel was the son of Moses Slater and Sarah.
This is probably the same Moses and Sarah Slater who had had the following children baptised at St John the Baptist in Hey, Lees:
Mary Slater baptised on 7 August 1748,
James Slater baptised on 18 November 1750, and
Sarah Slater baptised on 31 March 1755.
From the records of the St John's baptisms we find that Moses was a Check Weaver living at Broadcar.
From the record of Daniel's baptism at St George's we find that Moses was a Weaver at Hartshead.
St John's in Hey, like St George's in Mossley, was a daughter church of St Michael's, both being within the Parish of Ashton-under-Lyne. St John's was founded in 1742, a decade before St George's. At that time fines were levied for non-attendance at church. Broadcarr / Hartshead is about two and a half miles from St John's, and is three and a half miles from St Michael's in Ashton-under-Lyne. Walking that extra mile in each direction would have added 40 / 45 minutes onto the round trip, and so St John's was the venue Moses and Sarah chose for the 1748-1755 baptisms. When St George's Chapel was built then that became the closest venue for Moses and Sarah for a baptism. For both daughter churches it meant that the villagers no longer had to travel to the Parish church in Ashton-under-Lyne.

The First Marriage

The first marriage at St George's was not until 1859, not until St George's Chapel had existed for almost 100 years. The first marriage at St George's took place on 21 February 1859, and was that of Edward Booth and Sarah Ann Shaw, who were married by Banns, by the Curate, J R Dickinson. Edward was a bachelor, age 21, a spinner, lived on Mossley Brow, he was the son of Joseph Booth, deceased. Sarah Ann was a spinster, age 19, lived on Mossley Road, she was the daughter of Stephen Shaw an overlooker. Sarah Anne Shaw, the daughter of Sarah Shaw and Stephen Shaw, an overlooker, had been baptised on 21 July 1839 at St Michael's in Ashton-under-Lyne. Edward and Sarah Ann's daughter, Sarah Ellen Booth, was born in 1859, the birth being registered in Hartshead. It is sad to say that Sarah Ellen died in 1860, the death also being registered in Hartshead.

The Earliest Burial

The earliest burial listed in the Burial Book is that for Matty Ashton who was buried in 1761. However there is at least one page missing from the beginning of the Burial Book. The first known burial, and likely to be the first internment in the new burial ground, was that for William Andrew in 1757, he was one year of age. Evidence of this burial can be seen on the still existing family headstone, which is now Headstone 45 on Path One, the path that leads to the John Whitworth Memorial. The headstone says:
Also William son of John Andrew the younger Aug 31 1757 1 year old.
The same headstone also names several other family members:
John Andrew the Older, William's grandfather, who died in 1758.
John Andrew the Older had been born circa 1672, during the Regin of Charles II.
Here resteth the body of John Andrew the Older of Quickwood in Saddleworth who departed this life August 1758 in the 87th year of his age.
John Andrew the Younger, William's father, who was the first owner of Roughtown Mill, the earliest known water powered mill in Mossley, he died in 1786.
Also John Andrew Jun. April 3 1786 in the 75 year of his age.
Roughtown mill was then taken over by John the Younger's surviving son, Ottawell, and the same headstone tells us that Ottawell died in 1792.
Also the said Ottawell Andrew Sep 9 1792 in the 51 year of his age.

The Daughter of One of the First Trustees

The First Trustees for the Building Committee of St George's Chapel were: Peter Greaves of Mossley, Thomas Seel of Mossley, James Brown of Ashton-under-Lyne, Robert Lees of Staley Hall, Daniel Woolley of Staley Wood, Edward Kenworthy of Saddleworth, and William Kenworthy the Younger, of Quickwood.

William Kenworthy, of Quickwood, was a clothier, and his wife was Alice. On 9 December 1759 Ann Kenworthy, the daughter of William Kenworthy, was baptised at St George's Church in Mossley. Anne gained some notoriety. When she was about fifteen years old a young man became apprenticed to her father. This young man was named Samuel William Ryley, supposedly from somewhere near Chester but actually he had been born in London. He had been apprenticed by his parents in order to prevent him marrying, as he was only a lad in his teens. But their efforts were in vain and served no purpose. Soon after his arrival in Mossley Samuel William became captivated by the charms of his master's daughter. William Kenworthy was a prosperous woollen manufacturer and was the Leaseholder of the Roughtown estate. William Kenworthy, Clothier of Quickwood, was buried at St George's Church, Mossley, on 29 June 1776. Samuel William Ryley prevailed upon Ann Kenworthy to run away with him to Gretna Green, where they were married by the blacksmith in 1776. Samuel William Ryley was 20 years old, and Ann Kenworthy was 16 years old. They travelled to Gretna Green by stagecoach. The certificate for their marriage reads:
"North Breton, Graitney Green, 15 September 1776. These are to Certifie all persons that may concern that Samuel William Ryley and Ann Kenworthy, both of the County of Yorkshire, came before me and declared themselves both single persons, and were lawfully married by the way of the Church of England, and agreeable to the laws of the Kirk of Scotland. Given under my hand date above mentioned."
Thomas Brown, Sam. Wm. Rylery. Ann Kenworthy. Witness John Wood. Robt Stoten. Postilions.
When William Kenworthy, Gent, died he left the Lease of the estate to his daughter Anne:
"the lower Quickwood in Saddleworth, commonly called the Rough Town."
William's Will is a little hard to read but his estate, settled in 1777, was worth about £10,000.
Soon after the return to this district of Samuel William and Ann, a company of strolling players appeared at Saddleworth, who set up a theatre in a barn. Young Ryley was present at several of their performances, and was seized with a passion for acting. Both he and his young wife joined the company, and for the rest of their lives led a wandering life, attaining some fame and notoriety on the stage.
Samuel William Ryley wrote an autobiography, which he called,
"The Little Itinerant (or memoirs of a Play Actor)"
in which he related the vicissitudes of their life. The earlier chapters gave a good account of the manner of their life. In his book Ryley called himself Samuel William Romney, his actual birth name. The book was reprinted in Oldham, Samuel William at one time being the lessee of Oldham Theatre. He was also at one time the manager of Edinburgh Theatre and Liverpool Theatre, and in 1793 the proprietor of *Ryley's Tavern* in Market Place, Manchester.
Samuel William Ryley could not handle money and lived beyond his means. The fortune which he inherited in 1777, through his wife, was soon reduced down to £800. Ryley, of Manchester, was declared bankrupt in 1794. This led to the remaining 12 years of the Lease on the whole of Quickwood having to be auctioned off at the Bulls Head in Mossley. Another auction disposed of barns and 4 acres of land.
Anne Ryley died sometime about 1822, and it was said that her name was on a tombstone at St George's although she was not buried there. After her death Ryley married the nurse who had looked after his wife in the last of her illness. Samuel William Ryley died on 12 September 1837 in his 83rd year.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

William Kenworthy senior, was baptised in 1712, and he married Grace Taylor at St Chad's in Rochdale on 31 December 1734. William Kenworthy the younger was baptised at St Chad's, Saddleworth on 11 April 1736. About 1742 William Kenworthy senior purchased Quickwood. William Kenworthy the younger married Alice Buckley on 20 October 1757 at St Chards, Rochdale. William Kenworthy senior, of Quickwood, died on 15 May 1764 age 52 years, and Grace died on 17 April 1777 age 68 years. Both were buried at St George's Church. William Kenworthy the younger and Cornelius Kenworthy, who is mentioned on the next page, were related.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Memorial From The Old Chapel—Catharine Kenworthy

SACRED
to the Memory of
CATHARINE
the only Child of Cornelius and Dorothy Kenworthy
who died at the *Age* of eighteen
Feb. 23. 1776

Blessed by Nature with that Soundness of Intellect
which is enjoyed by few
and scarce ever by the Young
she derived from it and from Education
an uncommon winningness of Manner
that set off the Lustre of her Understanding
by shading it
at this early Period of Life.
tho' adorned with uncommon Charms of Person
She had learned to be superior to the Sense of Beauty
and to claim no Pre-eminence from it

with a just right to every Preference
she challenged none
amid the general Praises of her Friends
she was never elated
amid the united Applauses of all around her
she was ever humble
diverting Attention from her own Merits
and giving that Applause to others which she herself deservd
and to the Close of her Short Life
had an Eye to discern a Tongue to commend
and a Heart to love every Merit but her own

believe not this the Language of Flattery
'tis but a Tribute due at once
to the Merits of the Daughter
and the Sorrows of the Parents
who seek a mournful Relief
by dwelling upon the greatness of their Loss

S & J Hope *Manchester*

S & J Hope of Manchester had a marble / limestone quarry which, they advertised in 1805, was held in great estimation, when burnt into lime for the improvement of land, in the construction of Canals and all sorts of water works, it had great excellence as plaster or stucco, and had the peculiar advantage of being when simply mixed with sand and water forming a composition for lining aqueducts and every other such like purpose in or under water. The stone was very advantageously situated for repairing roads or highways, as well.

Plaque From The Old Chapel

Located on the west wall near to the Catharine Kenworthy memorial is this plaque. It too was originally in the first St George's Chapel and was transferred when St George's Church was built.



Memorial From The Old Chapel—Catharine Kenworthy



On the north wall of the church room at St George's is a stone memorial to Catharine Kenworthy who died on 23 February 1776, age 18 years old. Catharine was the only child of Cornelius and Dorothy Kenworthy of Quick in Saddleworth. The memorial was in the original St George's Chapel which had been erected in 1755, and the memorial was incorporated into the present St George's Church when it was built in 1882. It used to be the custom that boys and girls who misbehaved themselves in church would be sat under this memorial, and so they soon learnt how to behave themselves. Other children remember this memorial as the lady getting out of the bath. The memorial depicts Catharine as a sign of resurrection, pushing up the lid of her own tomb. Cornelius Kenworthy, a cloath maker of Saddleworth, had married Dorothy Chadwick, by Licence, at St Mary's Church in Oldham on 24 February 1757. Catharine was baptised on 26 December 1757 at St George's Chapel, Mossley. The baptism book records her name as Kitty. Cornelius and Dorothy did not have any more children, and eighteen years later their only child died. Their daughter Catharine was buried on 26 February 1776 at St George's Chapel in Mossley. The burial record gives an abbreviation of her father's name, his name is given as Cor Kenworthy. Cornelius Kenworthy of Quick paid Land Tax of 13 shillings and 6 pence in 1781, 11 shillings and 3 pence in 1784, and 13 shillings and 6 pence in 1788. Cornelius Kenworthy was buried at St George's Chapel in Mossley on 19 January 1800. Dorothy Kenworthy may then have moved to Stalybridge, and may have been buried at St George's Chapel in Mossley on 7 November 1802.

Memorial From The Old Chapel—John Whitworth

John Whitworth was baptised on 30 September 1785 at St George's Chapel in Mossley, he was the son of James Whitworth of Luzley, a clock and watch maker. John Whitworth commenced his military career in the regular service as a drummer boy in the 7th Fusiliers, early in the Peninsula wars. He was five feet two inches in height, but was remarkably muscular and possessed strength and courage and Colonel Wood always addressed him as "Bowzer". Frequently he was close to the Duke of Wellington when he proclaimed with his bugle the victory of a hundred fights. During the heat of a desperate engagement Whitworth was placed in a peculiar position between the two armies. The General gave Whitworth orders to sound the retreat, but Whitworth standing in a different position could see an advantage for the English and sounded the advance. They did advance, and the result proved a victory. Poor Whitworth was arrested, and put on trial by a court martial. Whitworth declared himself guilty of the charge and stated the facts to act contrary to order. "Seeing that victory would be the result of disobedience I was determined to add another wreath to the accumulated laurels of my country, whatever might befall me as an individual." Whitworth was given a severe reprimand. Within a few days he was promoted to drum-major. Distinguished as one of the bravest, whenever a fort was stormed or a rampart mounted, Whitworth was present sounding his bugle. He was a favourite of the officers, privates, camp followers, and with the Duke of Wellington. After spending 21 years in His Majesty's Service Whitworth received his discharge. Whitworth enjoyed a circle of a few chosen friends, and often reflected upon the glorious victory over Napoleon, often telling tales of how the fields on the Peninsula were won, and often visiting the place of his birth, Mossley. Joined the regiment in 1804 as a drummer but served in most of the campaigns in the Peninsula as a Field Bugler. John Whitworth served at Copenhagen 1807, the West Indies 1808-1809 (present at Martinique) and North America (present at New Orleans), he also served in the Peninsula April 1809-April 1814, served with the Army of Occupation until 1818. Whitworth was Bugler at the storming of Badojoz 6 April 1812; when his Captain and his Lieutenant were killed Whitworth gained the top and immediately sounded his bugle, the troops accomplished their purpose and the city surrendered. John Whitworth was Discharged on 5 April 1825. At the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester railway in 1830 Whitworth, by then a pensioner, placed himself by the side of the railway and when the train approached took out his bugle and gave one of his well-known blasts. The Duke rose from his seat and exclaimed "That is Whitworth's bugle, I should like to see him." Whitworth paid the Duke a visit and His Grace conversed with him freely. During battle Whitworth had given a drink of water to a dying French soldier from his canteen. The soldier took a small packet from his bosom addressed to his own mother, Madame Madeline Morny. With his dying breath the French soldier desired Whitworth to deliver the parcel to his only surviving parent should he ever be so fortunate as to visit Paris. Whitworth threw his military cloak over the remains of the brave warrior, and left him stretched upon the cold earth at Toulouse. At this time the war between England and America was raging and the regiment to which Whitworth belonged was ordered across the Atlantic. The British army was struggling against superior numbers and the "Battle of New Orleans" was the last battle in which Whitworth fought. The 7th Fusiliers were recalled to France, but too late to share in the honours of Waterloo. On his arrival in Paris Whitworth fulfilled the promise he had made to the dying warrior at Toulouse. When Whitworth handed the parcel to Madame Morny she recognised the handwriting as that of her son. Whitworth visited Madame M daily, and, having become acquainted with the daughter of the house, young Lydia was led to the altar by John Whitworth. They lived together happily for nearly thirty years. She died in the city of Manchester. John Whitworth died at 83 Booth Street, Manchester, on 2 August 1848 and he was buried in the family grave at Mossley, The headstone for John Whitworth has survived and can still be viewed in the church grounds. John Whitworth's Military General Service Medal, with nine bars, is now in the Regimental Museum of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, at the Tower of London. The memorial plaque commemorating John Whitworth, erected to his memory, can be found on the only remaining part of the first St George's Chapel, the south west corner. Carved in stone at the top of the Monument at St George's are Regimental badges and flags, and the figures of 2 soldiers, one with a rifle at the reverse and the other is a resting position. At the foot of the Monument are 2 cannons, old cannon balls, bugle, colours, sword, and a drum-major's mace and the inscription "Rest Warrior Rest".

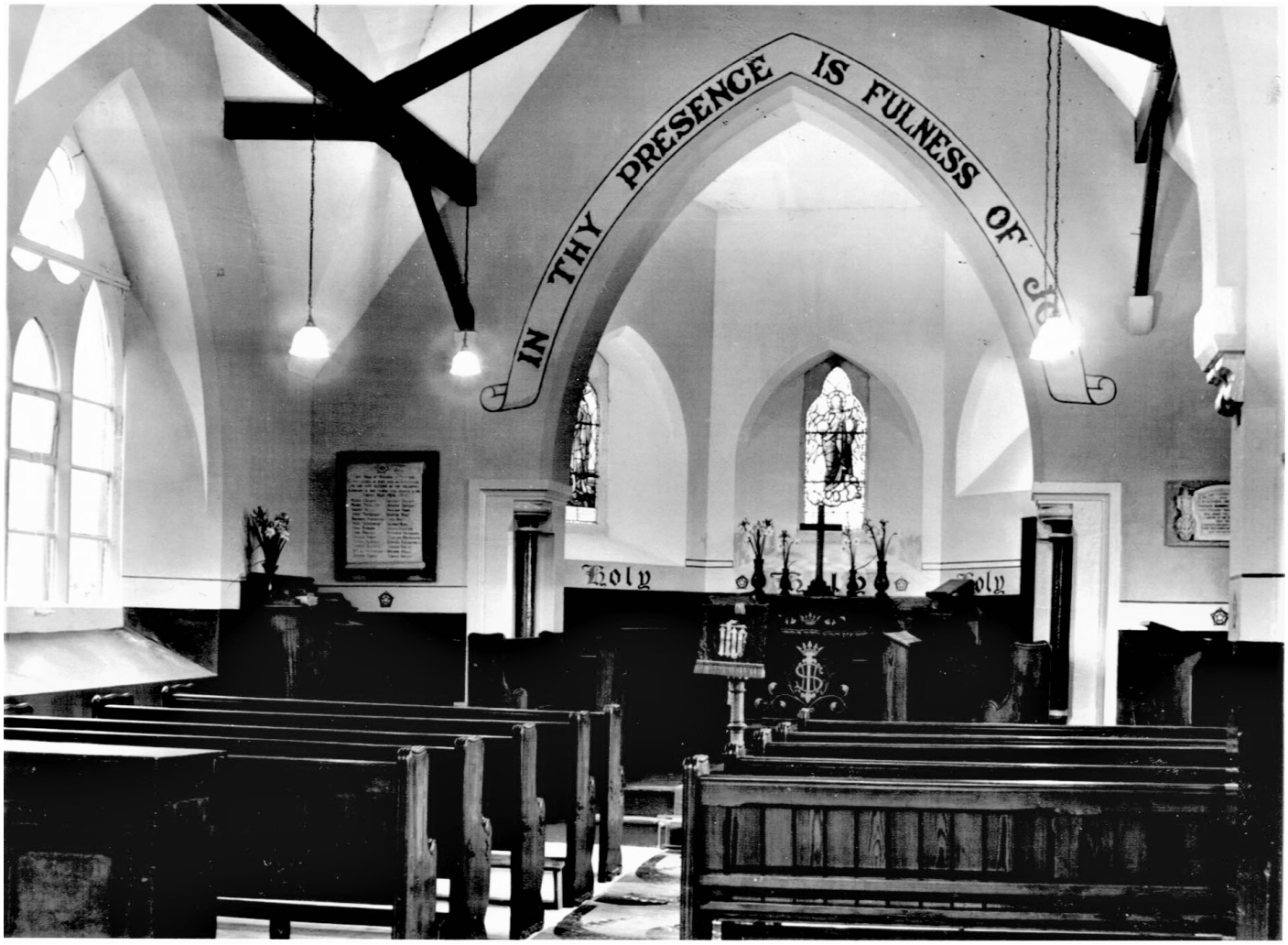


The long inscription on this intricate monument begins:
"John Whitworth departed this life on the 2nd August 1848 in the 64th year of his age. He entered the service as a drummer in the year MDCCCIV (1804) and was discharged MDCCCXXV (1825). He was field bugler during the Peninsular and Pyrenees Wars, and late drum major of the VII Royal Fusiliers. At peace within his hallowed grave, lie the cold ashes of a soldier brave, his soul, 'tis hoped, has joined a happier corps with the heaven's high host, on Canaan's peaceful shore."



St Augustine's

The first St Augustine's church at Hartshead was established in 1814, this was the year of the great freeze, that winter a fair, complete with burning braziers, was held on the frozen River Thames for six weeks.
The first church services were held in an old building believed to have been previously used for handloom weaving. The oldest surviving document from this era is a Hymn Sheet for a service on Sunday 27 June 1819 when the sermon was to be preached by Revd J Fielding of Littlemoor. The old building also served as a school for local children, and the first Superintendent was Lees Hyde of Hydes (later the Smallpox Hospital). After him Nicholas Lilley and William Hawkyard held the position jointly. A great social life centred around the festivities and outings connected with the school. Children made Christmas decorations by threading holly leaves onto string, and they used to go out carolling. In the summer time Lees Hyde took children on a waggon to picnics. Lees Hyde had been baptised at St Georges on 28 April 1844 and by 1866 was an Overseer of the Poor for the Hartshead Division. The local industry at that time consisted of sand quarries, farming, tanning, handloom weaving, rope making, nail making, and of course there were public houses and a beer house. Broadcarr coal mines opened in 1843.
In 1865 Mrs Jeanette Jones, wife of Revd George Alfred Jones, the vicar of St George's, laid the foundation stone for the new St Augustine's. To mark the occasion Mrs Jones was presented with an ornamental trowel which bore the inscription: "Presented to Mrs Jones, wife of the incumbent of Mossley, at the laying of the corner stone of Hartshead Church / School, by Mrs Eaton, Ashton-under-Lyne, wife of the architect and builder. 7 October 1865."
The first service held at the new St Augustine's was at 3.00 pm on Sunday 6 May 1866, by Revd George Alfred Jones.
The preacher in 1876 was Revd Harrison. A new silk banner for the school was purchased in 1887.
The first baptism at St Augustine's was that of Fred Yates, who had been born on 1 June 1885. Fred was the son of Ann and James, a farmer at Hartshead. Fred was baptised on 25 April 1886, and the St George's baptism book states that the baptism took place at St Augustine's. The last baptisms at St Augustine's, were Fred's great grandchildren, Charles John and Edward William Mills in 1978, and Robert Norman Mills in 1980, children of Charlie Mills of the Colliers Arms. In 1908 the Altar and a Scarlet Frontal, lavishly embroidered with gold, were presented by Mr Thompson of Dale House in Delph. In 1908 166 people attended a Christmas party, and in 1913 the figure attending rose to 194.
On 17 July 1921, in conjunction with the 98th Anniversary of the Church, a marble Roll of Honour, engraved by Thomas Corner, was unveiled at St Augustine's, it bears the inscription: "This Roll of Honour is erected to the Glory of God and for the safe return of the following scholars of this school who served in the Great War 1914-1919." This was followed by 26 names. Carol singing, a party and a social had helped raise the £20 for the cost of the Roll of Honour. This Roll of Honour is now on display in the Memorial Chapel at St George's Church. The St Augustine's War Memorial listed the four scholars of the school who fell in the Great War: Randolph Warhurst, John Taylor, Thomas Mullaney, and Charles Whitaker. The current whereabouts of this War Memorial not known.
On 7 October 1929, at the Harvest Festival, dedications were given for the new organ, and two stained glass windows, the east window given by Richard Barlow in memory of his wife Mary Jane shows the Ascending Christ, and the other given by Sarah Armfield in memory of her family showed the Resurrection. From the end of the Second World War church services were held at St Augustine's on the last Sunday in the month at 3.00 pm. By the end of 1953 only six families were using the church. In 1967 the building was Grade II Listed. In 1978 essential repairs to St Augustine's were to cost £5K to £6K. The last service at the Church was the Harvest Festival held at 3.00 pm on Friday 26 September 1982. Following the church's closure items from St Augustine's were transferred to St George's by Harold Woods and include the Mary Jane Barlow window, which is now displayed on the balcony staircase of St George's, a silver chalice dedicated to the memory of Lees Hyde Marland, a bookstand, crockery, candlesticks, the marble Roll of Honour, and a Bible presented in 1921 by Mr and Mrs Thomas Tetlow for the 98th Anniversary. St Augustine's was a mission/branch of St George's, and having only 10 pews, was the smallest church in the Manchester diocese. It never saw a wedding or a funeral. The school was purchased in 1988, refurbished, and now is a four bedroomed house known as Hartshead Hall.



Above: Inside St Augustine's, showing the Mary Jane Barlow and the Sarah Armfield windows
Below: the outside of St Augustine's, showing the "rose" window



HYMNS

TO BE SUNG AT

HARTSHEAD Sunday School,

On SUNDAY Afternoon, June 27th. 1819,

And a SERMON will be preached,

By the Rev. J. Fielding of Littlemoor.

☞ A Collection will be made for the Support of this excellent Institution.



Opening of the Service.

THE Lord will bless, and greatly own,
Their lengthen'd life with mercies crown,
Who lead uncultivated youth,
In paths of righteousness and truth.

2 Children and youth from duty stray
To fatal vice an easy prey;
Averse to good and prone to ill,
Led by a base corrupted will.

3 When wand'ring in forbidden ways
Their sin increases with their days,
And ev'ry sinful step they take,
Conveys them nearer to the lake.

4 To save them from impending woe,
Benevolence, thy kindness show,
Thy gen'rous aid exert betimes,
Ere they grow hard'ned in their crimes,

5 With steady persevering aim,
The wand'ring prodigals reclaim;
And teach the rude untutor'd mind;
The good by Providence design'd.

6 When rising youth the truth receive
Persuaded to return and live,
Religion then prevailing spreads,
And all around her blessings sheds.

7 Their kind instructors daily bless,
With all the joys of righteousness;
And may the labour of their love,
Receive its great reward above.

8 The liberal man, who makes the poor
Rejoice to share his earthly store;
Shall find, the Lord in time of need,
To own and bless his gen'rous deed.

9 Mercy will own who mercy show,
With plenty make their cup o'erflow;
May blessings on their head descend,
And crown with joy that never end.

Before Sermon:

WE children gather'd here,
Were once quite unconcern'd
Our God we did not fear,
Nor useful lessons learn'd;
Nor pray'd God our souls to bless,
Nor wish'd the Sunday School success.

2 Our truly wretched case,
Impress'd the feeling heart,
Exertions then took place,
Instructions to impart;
Then God was sought our souls to bless
And give our Sunday Schools success.

3 His providential care,
Was clearly then display'd,
Teachers at once appear'd,
And gave their friendly aid:
O gracious Lord, our Teachers bless,
And grant our Sunday Schools success.

4 Both ignorant and poor,
Not having books to read,
Our benefactor's store,
Was open to our need.
O God, our benefactors bless,
And grant our Sunday Schools success.

After Collection:

TO God our praises first belong,
Whose mercy like a river flows,
His mercy claims our sweetest song,
And rises higher than our woes.

2 We praise the Lord, that we were brought
In tender years to hear his word,
And from the word of Life are taught
To flee from sin, and fear the Lord.

3 Work for thy glory, gracious Lord,
In ev'ry school to which we go;
There let thy mercy be ador'd,
Thy richest blessings there bestow.

4 Jesus, bright sun, arise and shine,
To make the young plantation grow:
To thee our hearts may we resign,
And follow on the Lord to know.

5 As every good from God descends,
The author and the source of grace;
May grace and peace to all our friends,
Be multiplied and still increase.

6 O may success their labours crown
And God reward their ev'ry care;
While we with thanks their kindness own
And for them lisp our daily pray'r.



St Augustine's Bible

Inscribed:

"Presented to St Augustine's
Church, Hartshead,
by Mr & Mrs Thos Tetlow, of
Overdale, Gorsey Lane,
Hazlehurst,
on the occasion of the
98th Anniversary.
July 17th 1921."



St Augustine's Bookstand

Transferred to St George's by Harold Woods in 1982, along with the Mary Jane Barlow stained glass window now on the staircase of St George's, a silver chalice dedicated to the memory of Lees Hyde Marland, the marble Roll of Honour, and the above Bible.

Bookstand restored in 2019 by Mark Aker.

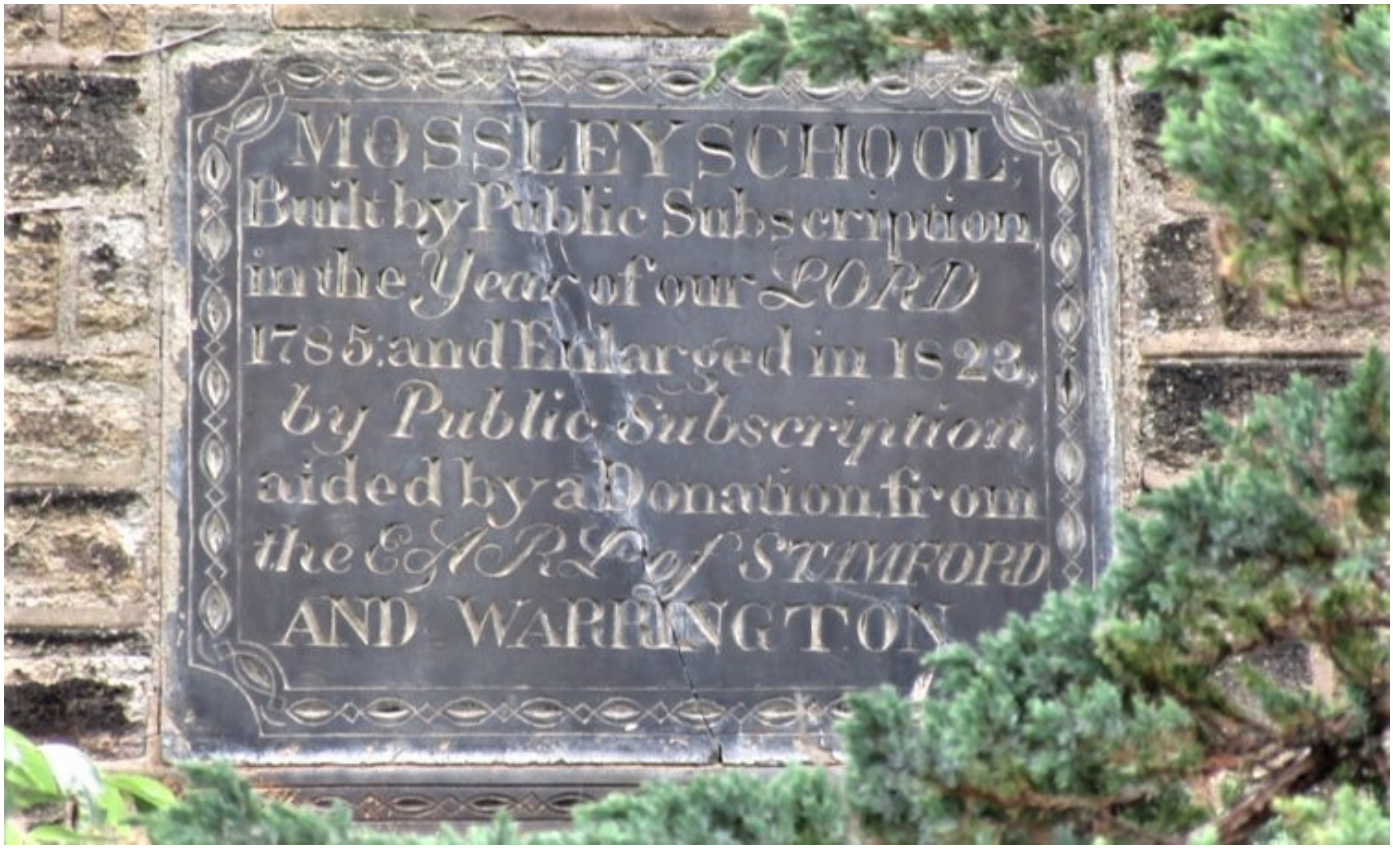
The Chapel School

The Chapel School was built in 1785 with funds raised by public subscription and was built at the bottom end of Mossley Market, on the site where the Health Centre stands today. In 1803 an advert in the newspapers said that a Schoolmaster was required to teach English language, grammar, merchants accounts, etc and a Mistress was required to teach plain and useful needlework. In 1805 a Sunday School at the Chapel School was run, jointly by the Church of England, and the Methodists, until they moved into their own building on Wyre Street in 1831. The Chapel School was enlarged in 1823, again by public subscription, and by a donation form the Earl of Stamford and Warrington. Edmund Buckley Esq, had been elected as a Conservative MP at the 1841 general election, and was the Chairman of the Manchester Exchange during the 1850's. Edmund Buckley was an Industrialist and owned iron works, collieries and cotton mills. When he died in 1867 Edmund Buckley, of Manchester, left a Legacy of £140,000 and in 1868 the Chapel School was repaired with funds from that Legacy. This allowed the building to continue to serve as a school until 1870, and then to be used as a form of community centre until it was demolished in 1906. Edmund Buckley Esq was buried at St Chad's in Uppermill.



St George's Church of England School

The Parish School of St George's was built on land given by the Earl of Stamford, on condition that it be run as a Church of England School. The new school opened in 1873, the stone tablets from the old school, shown on the opposite page, were built into the south-east wall of the new School, they now overlook the St George's Church parking area. In 1890 measles was the reason why 103 children were absent from school. In 1893 the vicar provided a dinner on a January day for 60 of the poorer children. At Christmas 1911 the Mayor gave every child an orange. The First Headmaster of St George's School, Barnard Slading le Beau, lived with his wife Elizabeth and their family in the school house on Stamford Street, Mossley. Later this property became the caretaker's house. That property has now been demolished. Barnard Slading le Beau became ill in January 1885, he continued to work until March but died on 27 April 1885. He was buried at St George's. With him is his son Francis who had died in July 1884 aged 8, and his daughter Helena Louisa who died in May 1885 age 20. There is no surviving headstone for the family.



Above: Mossley School Built by Public Subscription in the Year of our Lord 1785 and enlarged in 1823 by Public Subscription aided by a Donation from the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.



Above: Repaired 1868 from a Legacy left by the late EDMUND BUCKLEY ESQ MP.



Above: These stones from the old school were presented by T & J Cope.

Mossley Brow Sunday School


Mossley Brow Parish Church Sunday School.

The planning for a new Church School, a branch school of St George's, began in April 1870, but the foundation stone was not laid until 1876, the intervening period being used for fundraising events such as sales of work, trips out, tea parties, and evenings of entertainment. The foundation stone was laid at Mossley Brow on Saturday 19 August 1876 amid great ceremony. A procession at 3.00 pm from St George's to the site for the new building on Andrew Street was headed by Mossley brass band. The Vicar at St George's at the time was Revd Thomas Newham Farthing. An ornamental chased trowel was presented to his wife Mrs Mary Ann Farthing, who had been appointed to lay the foundation stone, it had a carved ivory handle with an engraved inscription. A Time Capsule was placed in a cavity by Captain Eaton, the architect, of Messrs John Eaton and Sons of Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. Short addresses were delivered by Revd Farthing MA, and Revd MacDonagh BA, the vicar of St John's at Roughtown. The church was erected on Andrew Street, on land donated by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and the church was consecrated by James Fraser, the Bishop of Manchester. The total cost of the building was estimated to be about £1,600, without fittings. The contractors were Edward Marland for the masons work, and John Pickford for the joiners work. In 1877 the school was licenced for public worship and the Church School opened on 12 August 1877. In 1877 a cricket team was started, and they first played opposite Luzley Hall, and after a couple of more venues finally moved to the King George Playing Fields on Egmont Street. In 1909 it was felt that Mossley Brow should have a new banner for its public processions and services. The design of the Good Shepherd with the Lamb, and a banner made of silk, costing about £30, was chosen. Mossley Brow football team was formed in 1922 and they won many league titles and cup and medal honours. The team broke up after several players were called up during the second World War. It was not until the 1920's that a Lads' club was started and then the school had a billiard and snooker team, they were League champions on four occasions. A dramatic society was also commenced in 1922. A Girls' Club, mainly for teenagers, was started in 1952, table tennis was one of their main activities. Brownies were formed in 1964, and Girl Guides in 1971. The St George's Parish Church Year Book for 1956 tells us that Sunday School was held at 2.15 pm, every Sunday. By 1911 the school had declined into a bad state of decay, so extensive repair and prevention work was undertaken. Extensive repairs were required again in the 1970's, including treatment for dry rot, and then it was realised that the land had only been ceded by Lord Stamford. In order to rebuild the school the land would have to be purchased, and the cost of the land and the rebuild was prohibitive. The school, which could hold 150 scholars, was closed in 1975. During the Great War thirty-five men of the Mossley Brow Sunday School served with the Armed Forces. Thirteen of these lost their lives. During the Second World War forty-seven men and four women served with the Armed Forces. Two of the men lost their lives.

The Architect Who Built Mossley Brow Parish Church Sunday School—John Eaton

John Eaton was born in Scotland in 1810, married in Scotland in 1834, and was a stone mason living on Church Street in Ashton-under-Lyne by 1841. By 1851 he was living on Katherine Street in Ashton-under-Lyne and was a builder employing 44 men. In 1858 John Eaton subscribed £1 towards the cost of purchasing gun carriages on which the Russian Guns were to be mounted and displayed outside Ashton Town Hall. In 1859 John Eaton was granted the contract to build St Ann's Church in Ashton, and in 1860 was appointed as the contractor for the improvements to Christ Church in Ashton, where he was a member of the congregation. In 1862 John Eaton was the architect for houses and stables at Park Bridge, and in 1863 he was the architect appointed to rebuild Hartshead Pike. In 1867 John Eaton built both the Lawrence Earnshaw monument in Mottram Cemetery, and he designed the clock tower on Ashton market. In 1868 John Eaton was the architect for the Mossley Co-op on Arundel Street. In 1871 John Eaton was the architect for Oldham Whittaker, for his weaving shed at Hurst Cross, the architect for the school at Cockbrook, and the architect for the church school at Micklehurst. John Eaton died in 1876 and was buried at Christ Church in Ashton-under-Lyne. His monument still stands in the now landscaped grounds. If John Eaton had lived a few years longer I am certain he would have been appointed as the architect for building the new St George's Church, Mossley.

The Mason Who Built Mossley Brow Parish Church Sunday School & The Present St George's Church—Edward Marland

The mason awarded the contract to build both the Mossley Brow Parish Church Sunday School and the new St George's Church was Edward Marland of Earl Street, in Mossley. Edward had been born at Baguley Hill, in the Yorkshire part of Mossley, and was baptised at St George's on 4 March 1832. His father, John, was a mason. Edward did not follow his father into the trade immediately, at first he worked in the cotton industry. Edward married Alice Wood at St Michael's in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1857, and by the time their first child was born in 1861 Edward was working as a mason. Edward and Alice are shown living on Earl Street in the 1881 to 1911 Census'. The 1881 Census, the time the new St George's church was being built, shows that Edward was a master mason employing 15 men. Edward's sons, Buckley and Jonathan, joined their father's firm. Edward died in 1911 aged 79 years, and Alice died in 1922 aged 85 years. They are buried together at St George's but their grave is unmarked. It is known that Edward and Alice had fourteen children, six of which died whilst they were babies.

The Joinery Contractor for Mossley Brow Parish Church Sunday School—John Pickford

The contractor appointed to undertake the joinery work for the Mossley Brow Parish Church Sunday School was John Pickford of George Street, Mossley. John had been born in Stockport but by 1851 was living in Mossley, this is the year that John married Jane Broadhurst at St Michael's church in Ashton. The 1861 Census shows John as a cabinet maker, and from 1871 he was a joiner and builder. The 1881 Census, the time the new St George's church was being built, shows that John was employing 8 men and 2 boys and that he was living on George Street, Mossley. John died age 71 years in 1901, and Jane died age 72 years in 1903. They were buried together in the 1832 ground at St George's. Their headstone was removed in 1974.

Sadly their grandson Harry Pickford was killed in action at "Transport Corner" near Ypres in 1917. He was only 19 years old. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial and St George's Church memorial.

Within St George's church is a wooden cross that is inscribed with a memorial to Harry's father, John Charles Pickford.

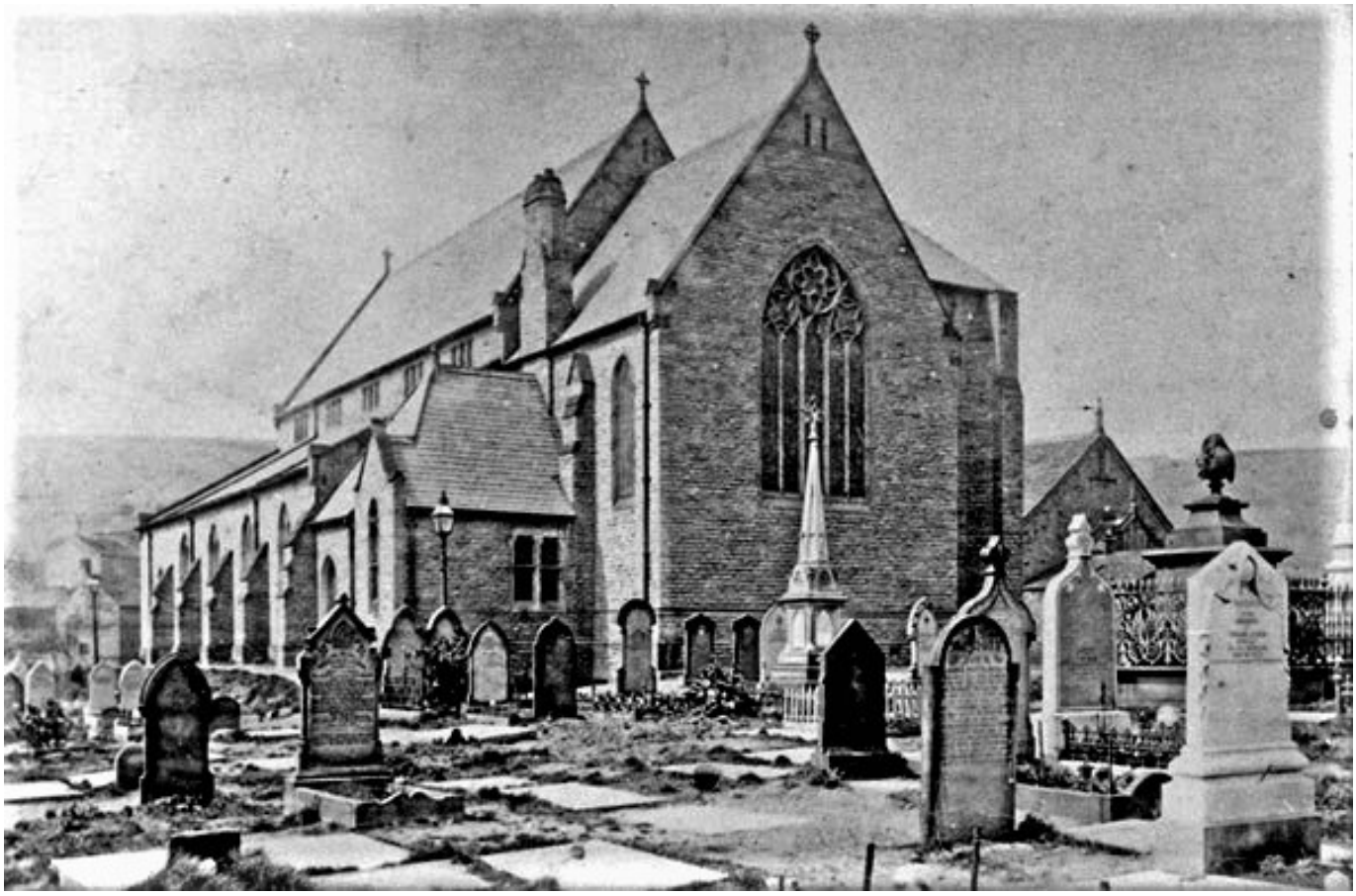
The War Memorials

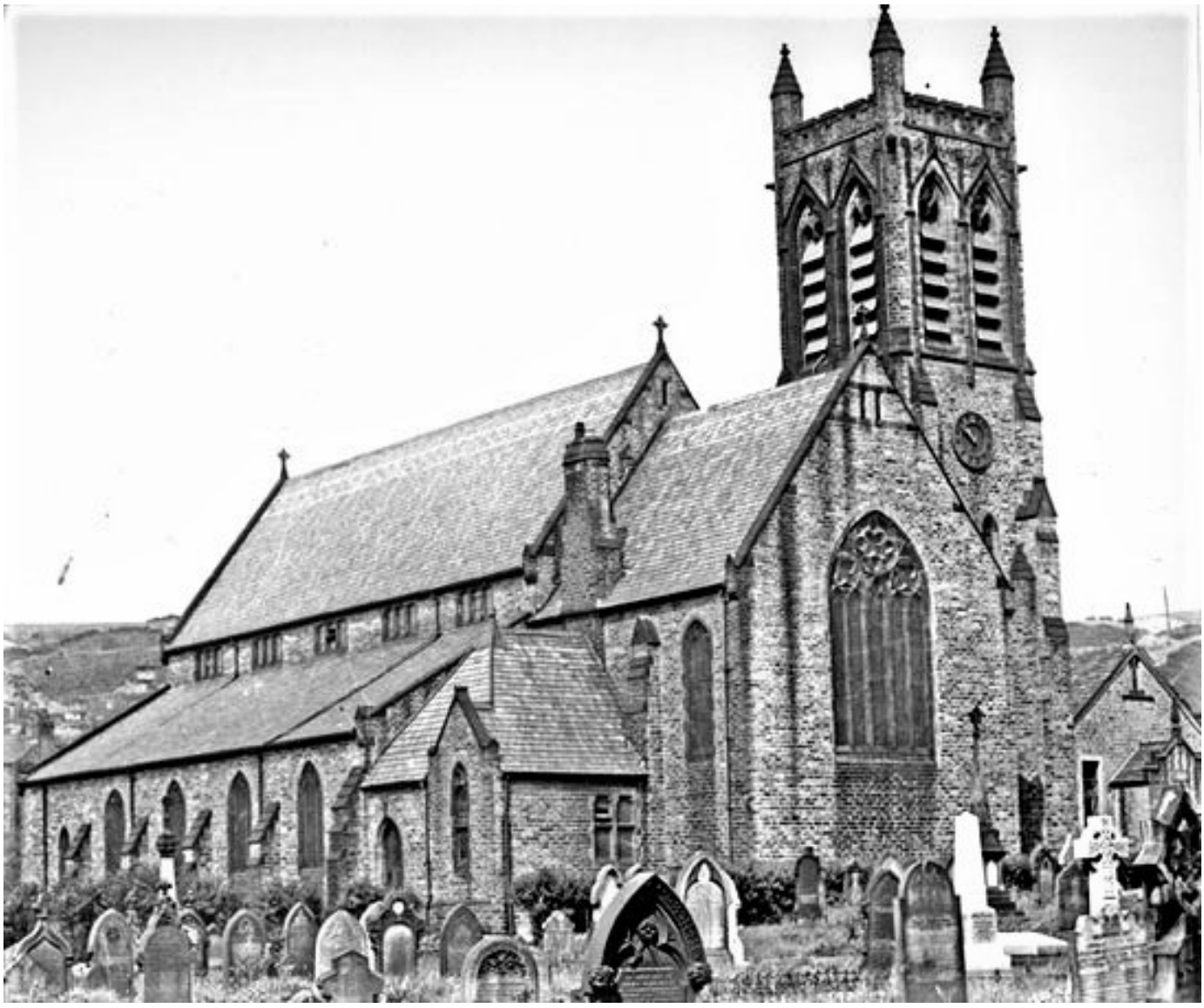
The Mossley Brow Sunday School WW1 and WW2 Rolls of Honour are now proudly displayed in the café area of the Church Room at the rear of St George's Church. They list the names of all the scholars who fought in each of the wars and show those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Present St George's Church

The foundation stone of the second St George's church at Mossley was laid on Saturday 24 May 1879 afternoon with Masonic Honours and Ceremony by the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, Alderman Mr George Mellor, the ex-Mayor of Ashton-under-Lyne, the local volunteers (34th West Yorkshire's) based in Lydgate, fired a *feu de joie*, a rifle salute, each soldier firing in succession along the ranks to make a continuous firing sound. Prior to the laying of the stone there was a procession throughout the town, which had been gaily decorated. The procession was accompanied by four bands of music, Freemasons, Shepherds, Oddfellows, Orangemen, Foresters, and Druids, and the Teachers, Scholars, and Friends of the Parish Church School. In the evening a grand Masonic banquet took place in the Mechanics' Hall. The church cost £6,550 of which about £1,000 was contributed by non-conformists. The work was executed by Mr Edward Marland of Mossley, and was designed and supervised by Mr Alfred Hugh Davies-Colley, architect, of Manchester (1846—1917), who also designed the alabaster reredos installed at St George's in 1887, and he designed the William Hulme Grammar School in Whalley Range. The church could originally accommodate 1,013 adults, 775 on the ground floor in the nave, 36 in the chancel, and 202 upstairs in the west gallery. Local newspapers reported that the gallery was for children. The church was consecrated on Thursday 23 November 1882 by the Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Revd James Frazer. At that time the inside of the new St George's would have been very bare. Many of the decorative features that we see today were added later. The mosaics in the Chancel and Sanctuary are excellent and were installed in 1896. The majority of the first windows were made of plain glass. The clock, the reredos, the pulpit, the font, and an eagle lectern were given by some of the leading subscribers to the church. The old St George's Chapel was demolished in 1885. The bell tower is 91 feet high and holds a peal of eight bells which were first rung at Easter 1888. The Lych gate was constructed and dedicated in 1921. Both the Church and the Lych Gate are now Grade 2 Listed Buildings, and were first listed on 22 November 1966. In 1997 English Heritage granted £88,003 for conservation work to the church tower. Tameside MBC is now responsible for the maintenance of the church grounds and walls.
The photos on the opposite page: at the top, the new St George's Church with its partially built tower, circa 1882—1885; and at the bottom, the new St George's Church with its fully built tower, post 1887.
The plaque below is inside the church on the wall to the left-hand side of the pulpit steps.









A PLAN OF THE

SUPERINTENDENTS, MONITORS, AND TEACHERS OF

ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Church Sunday School, Mossley,

FOR 1881.

"Spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."—Isaiah liv, 2.

MONTHS	APRIL.		MAY.				JUNE.				JULY.					AUGUST.			SEPTEMBER.					
DAYS	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
TEACHERS	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2		2	1	2	1	2	1	2

GIRLS' SCHOOL. BOYS' SCHOOL.

FEED MY SHEEP.—John xxi, 16. FEED MY SHEEP.—John xxi, 16.

VISITORS. SUPERINTENDENT. MONITORS. TEACHERS' CLASS. Watts Andrew—morn.

St George's Parish Church Sunday School—1881

† The Vicar of St George's Church was Revd Thomas Newham Farthing M A.

† Mrs Farthing was in charge of the Teachers' Class in the Girls' School.

† The Headmaster of St George's School was Barnard Slading le Beau.

† John Heys, a Visitor to the Girls' School, was an Alderman and a JP. A stained glass window in the Church Room in St George's Church is dedicated to him.

† Watts Andrew, in charge of the Teachers' Class in the Boys School was a bookkeeper, he was 32 years old and a married man, living on Stamford Street.

† William Edward Mills, in charge of the Monitors' Class in the Boys' School, was a grocer and a sub-postmaster. His headstone can be found immediately behind the east wall of St George's Church. His grandson, also named William Edward, was only 20 years old when he was killed during World War One.

† Amos Odgen, in charge of No 5 Class in the Boys' School, lived on Stockport Road and was a carrier for the London and North Western Railway Company.

† Proctor Ratcliffe, in charge of No 8 Class in the Boys' School, was a butcher, he was only 17 years old.

† Albert Rhodes, also of No 8 Class, was a married man, age 29 years, working as a cotton cop packer.

† Secretary, Benjamin Kaye, had long been connected with St George's. In 1867 he had been presented with an elegantly bound and ornamented Bible, on the inside of the cover were beautifully engrossed the words "Presented to Mr Benjamin Kaye, superintendent and teacher of St George's Parish Church Schools, Mossley, for his untiring zeal and devotion as a teacher and superintendent in the above school for the last thirty years."

† The poster was printed by Ezra Howard, a Bookseller Stationer and Printer, of Brookbottom, Mossley. Ezra is named on a brass plaque, on a table at the rear of St George's Church, near the centre aisle. Ezra and his wife Hannah are both buried at St George's, their headstone still survives in the churchyard.

William Buckley	John Robinson Robert Taylor	Benjamin Kaye John Heys
TEACHERS' CLASS. 1 Mrs. Farthing 2 " "	MONITORS' CLASS. 1 Mary Mills 2 " "	No. 1 Class. 1 Frances Lawton 2 " "
No. 2 Class. 1 Martha A. Jackson 2 " "	No. 3 Class. 1 Miss Hilton—morn. 2 Mrs. Dyson—aft.	No. 4 Class. 1 Elizabeth Kenworthy 2 Minerva Woolley
No. 5 Class. 1 Hannah Wood 2 Mary L. Rhodes	No. 6 Class. 1 Eliza A. Heys 2 Hannah Buckley	No. 7 Class. 1 Jane Clayton 2 Betty Holt
No. 8 Class. 1 Hannah Howard 2 Betty Taylor	No. 9 Class. 1 Ellen Ogden 2 Mary Eliza Woodhead	No. 10 Class. 1 Mary Ellen Wilde 2 Sarah Haigh
FEED MY LAMBS.—John XXI, 15.		
No. 11 Class. 1 Mary Holt 2 Margaret Ogden	No. 12 Class. 1 Maria Rawcliffe 2 Amelia Wrigley	No. 13 Class. 1 Sarah A. Gartside 2 Caroline Rhodes
No. 14 Class. 1 Henrietta Wrigley 2 Hannah Kaye	No. 15 Class. 1 Louisa Backhouse 2 Jane Robinson	No. 16 Class. 1 Ann Buckley 2 Sophia Marland
No. 17 Class. 1 Mary Alice Coburn 2 Mary Mason	No. 18 Class. 1 M. A. Buckley 2 B. A. Frost.	

	William Haigh	B. S. Le Beau—alt.
MONITORS' CLASS. 1 W. E. Mills 2 " "	No. 1 Class. 1 Samuel Pickford 2 James Taylor	No. 2 Class. 1 Harrop Wilde 2 Luke Platt
No. 3 Class. 1 Albert Haigh 2	No. 4 Class. 1 Charles Clayton 2 J. B. Wilde	No. 5 Class. 1 John Mills—morn. 2 Amos Ogden—aft.
No. 6 Class. 1 William Gartside 2 William Wood	No. 7 Class. 1 J. T. Britland 2 John Wood	No. 8 Class. 1 Albert Rhodes 2 Proctor Ratcliffe
FEED MY LAMBS.—John XXI, 15.		
No. 9 Class. 1 G. Sykes 2 William Moss	No. 10 Class. 1 John Mayall 2 W. T. Wilde	No. 11 Class. 1 F. Baxter 2 Thomas Mills
No. 12 Class. 1 J. H. Wrigley 2 James Marland	No. 13 Class. 1 2	No. 14 Class. 1 2

COMMITTEE.

The Vicar William Buckley Benjamin Kaye Ezra Howard William Haigh	John Robinson Watts Andrew W. E. Mills Amos Ogden James Taylor	Robert Taylor Mary Mills Frances Lawton M. A. Jackson Alice Lawton

Treasurer, JAMES BUCKLEY, Medical Hall: Secretary, BENJAMIN KAYE.

☞ Teachers are requested to be punctual in their attendance, or find a competent substitute, in the Morning at Half-past Nine o'clock, and in the Afternoon at Two o'clock.

E. HOWARD, GENERAL PRINTER, BROOKBOTTOM, MOSSLEY.

Incumbents of St George's

As you enter St George's Church through the main entrance you see high on the left wall two boards that list the incumbents. The first St George's Chapel in Mossley was built in 1755 and was consecrated on 13 June 1757. It cost £600 to build that chapel and parishioners no longer had to travel to the mother church, St Michael's, in Ashton-under-Lyne. Revd John Penny AM was the Rector of St Michael's from 1726 until his death in 1758, he is commemorated by *Penny Meadow* in Ashton. Revd John Penny was buried upright under the vestry at St Michael's; his Curate from 1747 was Edward Cradock.

John Cradock B A

John Cradock was the first minister of St George's in Mossley, he was nominated on 20 April 1757, and was Licensed on 2 July 1757. The value of the Curacy was £137. Revd John Cradock is recorded as being Clerk at St Michael's in Ashton-under-Lyne, and Master of the Grammar School, from 1757. The question is, who then performed the first recorded baptism at St Georges, that of Daniel Slater, on 8 August 1756 ? Revd Cradock probably conducted the first known burial, that of William Andrew, age 1 year, who died on 31 August 1757. From 1776, Revd Craddock, being a Freeholder, was a proper person to serve as a Juror at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions. Revd John Cradock, who had obtained his BA at Clare Hall, Cambridge, died on Monday 3 November 1777 at the Old Hall, in Ashton-under-Lyne, and was buried inside St George's in Mossley on 7 November 1777. Craddock Street in Mossley is named after him.

Matthew Sedgwick

Mathew Sedgwick was the son of a Gentleman, was Nominated Curate of Leck, Tunstall, 1749. In 1750 Mathew Sedwick was appointed as the Master of Clitheroe Grammar School at £20 pa, and from 1763 this increased to 21 guineas pa, and he received £20 pa for being the Assistant Curate at Downham. He was not devoted to teaching and the school seriously declined under his control. He kept loose company and frequently fought in public with people of low rank, and was guilty of many other vices. A petition was sent to the Bishop to have him removed. In 1775 Sedgwick resigned. He became Clerk to the Rector of Ashton-under-Lyne in 1777, with the Curacy of Mossley. In 1779 an assistant curate, Revd Thomas Haigh, was also appointed. It was during the residency of Revd Sedgwick, that the Chapel School was built in 1785, and the first St George's Chapel was enlarged in 1786.



Revd Matthew Sedgwick died on 28 May 1790 and was buried at St George's on 1 June 1790.

Revd Sedgwick was buried within the confines of the old chapel.

George Birch B A obtained his degree at Jesus College, Cambridge in 1780. Following his Curacy at Ashton -upon-Mersey and Great Budworth, Revd George Birch became, in 1790, Curate of Mossley. In 1791 he was appointed Surrogate by the Chancellor of Chester for the proving of wills, and granting letters of administration and marriage licences. The burial book for St George's tells us that Revd Birch resigned his position at St George's on 10 December 1792. Revd Birch then became Curate at Alderley, and was appointed Rector of Great Woolstone in Buckinghamshire in 1806. He died in that parish in 1809.

Bartholomew Dacre quaint and genial, with a portly figure, was appointed as a Deacon in 1785, Priest in 1786, and Curate at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1791. Revd Dacre was presented the Perpetual Curacy of Mossley in May 1793. In 1819, the year of Peterloo, a vicarage was especially built for Revd Dacre with a fund created by Queen Anne which enabled poor clergy to be adequately housed. That vicarage was an eight roomed farmhouse in Greenfield, which has subsequently become known as Dacre Hall. The idea behind this was that the farming of the land would provide the vicar with an income. After the death of Revd Dacre the farmland was split into two, and half of the original farmland is now the Dacre housing estate in Greenfield. Dacre Hall was built for £500; still standing today that property now has a value in excess of £625,000. Revd Dacre enjoyed partaking of a gill or two: He came to church on a grey horse, for early communion on Sunday, stabled his horse at the Bulls Head, had his meals there during the day, he often didn't go home till late Monday. Revd Dacre, and Revd Sutcliffe of St Chads in Uppermill, were temporarily barred from a local hostelry in the 1820's. And, after being invited in, Revd Dacre stayed for three days at the Hare and Hounds in Luzley. Besides these downfalls Revd Dacre had a serious interest in agriculture and is know to have grown, in 1819, Caesarean Kale, also known as Cow Cabbage. This leaves from this plant, which grows to between 6' and 8' in height (2 metres) were enthusiastically eaten by sheep and horses and cattle. The plant was grown from seed, and was usually planted in single rows two feet apart. The plant produced 20 tons of leaves per acre. This may account for the reason why some houses, located near to St George's, were known as "cabbage row". Revd Dacre's strong interest in agriculture led to him publishing, in 1824, *Testimonies in Favour of Salt as a Manure and a Condiment for Horse, Cow, and Sheep.* Revd Dacre advocated using salt in farming, food preservation, and in industry. Revd Dacre, St George's longest serving vicar, died on 23 December 1830, and was buried inside St George's Chapel, on 26 December 1830. He was 79 years old. **Photo Below:** provided by the Saddleworth Historical Society: Dacre Hall in Greenfield, with post 1858 Tudor and Gothic gentrifications.



John Hextall does have a surviving headstone, and in 1974 it was re-laid and now forms part of the pathway around St George's churchyard. Revd Hextall's appointments prior to St George's were as Assistant Curate at Sowerby, and as Stipendiary Curate at Ashton-under-Lyne. He was appointed Perpetual Curate of Mossley in 1831. Revd Hextall refused to live at the vicarage in Greenfield, as it was too far in distance from the Chapel. Revd Hextall lived at Limefield in Mossley, and then at the newer vicarage on Stamford Street in Mossley. In 1850 Revd Hextall took part in the ceremony consecrating Christ Church at Friezland. In 1859 Revd Hextall attended the inauguration of the Mossley Mechanics Institution. The first marriage Rev Hextall conducted at St George's, on 8 September 1859, was the third marriage at St George's. Of those from St George's taking part in the 1864 Whit Walks there were 450 boys and 500 girls. Revd Hextall died on 17 June 1864, he was 71 years of age. Revd Hextall is buried with his wife and one of their granddaughters. Revd Hextall had been at St George's for 33 years. In 1869 funds were raised to erect a memorial window to Revd Hextall in St George's. Originally installed in the first Chapel these windows can today be viewed in the chancel of the current, second, Church. The window on the north side of the altar shows the full length figure of Christ bearing a lamb on his right shoulder, with the text underneath "I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep". Also on the north wall is Moses with the tables of the law, with the inscription "By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified". The window on the south side of the altar shows St John the Baptist with the words "Repent ye for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand". The work was executed by Messrs Cox and Co of London. In 1817 John Hextall married Mary Knight. This Mary Knight is exactly the same age as the Mary Knight the daughter of John Knight, the Master of Ceremonies at the meeting held at St Peter's Field on Monday 16 August 1819, now infamously known as Peterloo. These are two completely separate ladies. Revd Hextall performed the burial service for John Knight, when he was buried at St George's Chapel in 1838. Mrs Hextall is known to have been a qualified teacher and between 1830 and 1845 she ran a small establishment for young ladies at 5 Warrington Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. No 5 is now is one of the terraced shops that faces the side of the Stamford Street Methodist Church. Today No 1 is being used as a private school, No 3 is the old Heginbottom Girls School, No 5 is where Mrs Hextall taught. She probably had no more than a dozen young ladies attending, and she probably ran a type of finishing school, teaching the daughters of local mill owners embroidery, how to be genteel, and other similar subjects that would prepare them for future marriage to the sons of mill owners, or to vicars. A silver baptismal shell dated 1924 was presented to St George's church in memory of Henry, the son of Revd Hextall. **Photos Below:** Revd and Mrs Hextall.

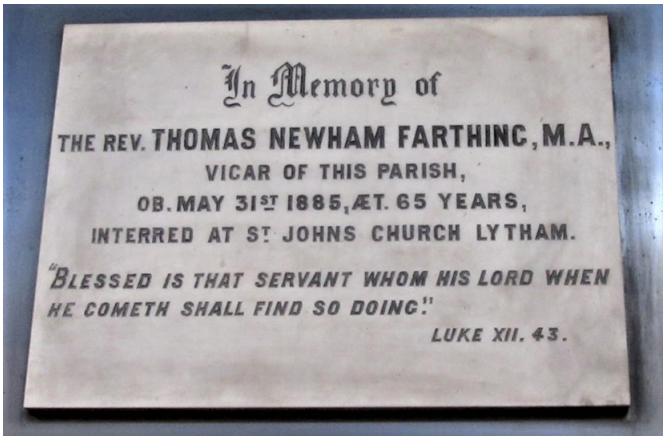




George Alfred Jones MA born in Masalipatour, Madras, in the East Indies, the son of Captain George Jones and his wife Mary Ann. He was Baptised on 14 February 1822. In 1841 he was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in 1851 he was a Classical Preceptor living in Dawlish in Devon. Married Jeanette Henry in 1853 at St Swithin's, in Bath. She had been born in County Down, Ireland. In 1860, when leaving the Curacy of St Peter's Church in Plymouth, he was presented, as a tribute of respect and esteem by his parishioners and congregation, with a very handsome solid silver inkstand, and a gold pen and pencil holder. In 1861 was the Curate of Wilstone, Tring, Hertfordshire. By 1862 Revd George Alfred Jones was in Ashton-under-Lyne, and in 1864 Revd George Alfred Jones was Licenced to the Perpetual Curacy of Mossley. In 1865 Mrs Jeanette Jones laid the foundation stone for the new St Augustine's Church School at Hartshead. In 1871 he was living with his wife, and their three children, at the vicarage on Stamford Street, Mossley. The children had been born in Somerset, Devon, and Hertfordshire. Rev Jones was taken ill on the first day of 1872, he died age 50, on 14 January 1872. His headstone was removed in 1974.

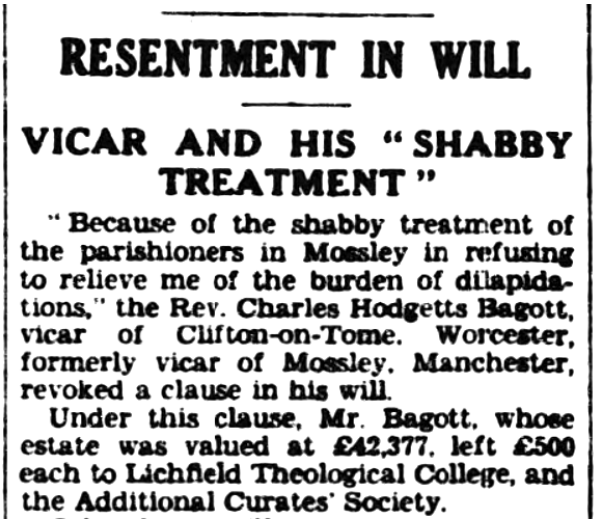
Thomas Newham Farthing MA was baptised at Sculcoates, Kingston-upon-Hull on 8 January 1819. He obtained his BA in 1843, and his MA in 1847, at St Catherine's College, Cambridge. He served in Chester and Salford before serving as Rector at Christ Church in Denton 1846-1872. Revd Thomas Newham Farthing married Mary Ann Mollady at St Paul's Church in Warwick on 7 March 1853. The 1861 and 1871 Census' show the couple and their three children living at Christ Church in Denton. Revd Farthing became the Perpetual Curate of St George's, Mossley, in 1872. St George's School opened in 1873. The 1881 Census shows him living at the vicarage, Stamford Street, Mossley. The foundation for the new St George's Church was laid in 1879, the church was consecrated in 1882. Revd Farthing, an eloquent preacher, died suddenly, age 65 years, on 31 May 1885, from chronic bronchitis and heart disease. He was buried in Lytham on 4 June 1885. Mary Ann Farthing died in 1890 in Kenilworth. There is a Marble Memorial Plaque inside St George's Church, Mossley, that reads: "In Memory of Revd Thomas Newham Farthing Vicar of this Parish OB May 31st 1885, AET 65 Years Interred at St John's Church, Lytham." The old St George's Chapel was taken down later in 1885. Revd Farthing only had a mixed Choir.

Anthony Hall MA born 26 July 1851, baptised at St John's Church in Blackburn 14 August 1851, was the son of a grocer. Anthony Hall: BA 1879, MA 1882, Deacon 1878, Priest 1879, served at Christ Church in Ashton-under-Lyne 1884-1885. The 1881 Census shows him as Curate of the Parochial Church, living at Clifton Place, on Oldham Road, in Ashton-under-Lyne. Revd Hall, Hon Sec for the home teaching of the blind, became the Vicar of St George's on Wakes Sunday 26 July 1885, the living being worth £300 per year. Married Lucy Darnton on 11 November 1885. Introduced a surplice Choir. The bell tower and clock were completed at St George's Church in 1887. Census' of 1891 and 1901: Revd Hall living at the old Stamford Street Vicarage. In 1900 Revd Hall was offered, and he accepted, the benefice of St Peter's, Ashton-u-Lyne, but afterwards withdrew. Only occupied the new vicarage for two weeks, died after one weeks illness. Burial place not known. He was 50 years old. The Memorial plaque to Revd Hall on the west wall of the balcony reads: "To The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of the Revd Anthony Hall MA Vicar of this Church From 1885 until July 2nd 1902. These windows are erected by his brothers and sisters."





Charles Hodgetts Bagott MA was born on 9 September 1867 in Dudley, Worcestershire, he was the son of a woollen draper / clothier. Charles Hodgetts attended Dudley Grammar School, and obtained his BA at Oxford in 1886. Charles Hodgetts became Curate at Pelsall in 1890, and the 1891 Census shows Charles Hodgetts as a Clerk in Holy Orders living in Walsall. Charles Hodgetts became the Curate of Christ Church, West Bromwich in 1892, and in 1893 he became the Curate of St Stephen's in Burnley. On 16 January 1894 Charles Hodgetts Bagott married Clara Adeline Mould in West Bromwich. Clara had been born in Smethwick, Staffordshire. Charles and Clara had two children, the first, a son, being born in Burnley, and the second, a daughter, being born in Ashton-under-Lyne. The 1901 Census shows the Bagott family living at The Grove, Currier Lane, Ashton-under-Lyne, Charles being listed as a Clergyman in the Church of England. When Revd Bagott began his ministry in Mossley in 1902 it was known that he was a remarkable preacher. In 1905 Revd Bagott, the Vicar of Mossley, was granted the faculty to erect on the south wall of the church a marble tablet to the memory of Hannah Beswick. That marble tablet can still be seen today. The 1911 Census shows Charles and Clara living at the Vicarage in Mossley. At this time they had been married 17 years. From 1914 to 1918 the men of Mossley served their King and County in The Great War, whilst at home the Mossley St John Ambulance Brigade ran the Mossley Military Hospital on a Voluntary Basis. In 1918 Revd Baggott gifted the Memorial Chapel to St George's, and he was the minister in 1921 when the Lych Gate and the War Memorial were installed. Due to ill health Revd Bagott resigned his Mossley ministry in 1925. Revd Bagott died on 5 January 1931, in Worcestershire, he left effects worth £42,377 7s 2d. To get an idea of the value of that amount, think about the prices of houses and streets on a Monopoly Board. An article in the *Daily Herald* on 23 February 1931 indicates that all was not well in Revd Bagott's time in Mossley and yet Rev Baggott's own letter published in the Parish Magazine in 1924 says "*Mossley where….good and kind friends treated me better than I deserved*".



RESENTMENT IN WILL

VICAR AND HIS "SHABBY TREATMENT"

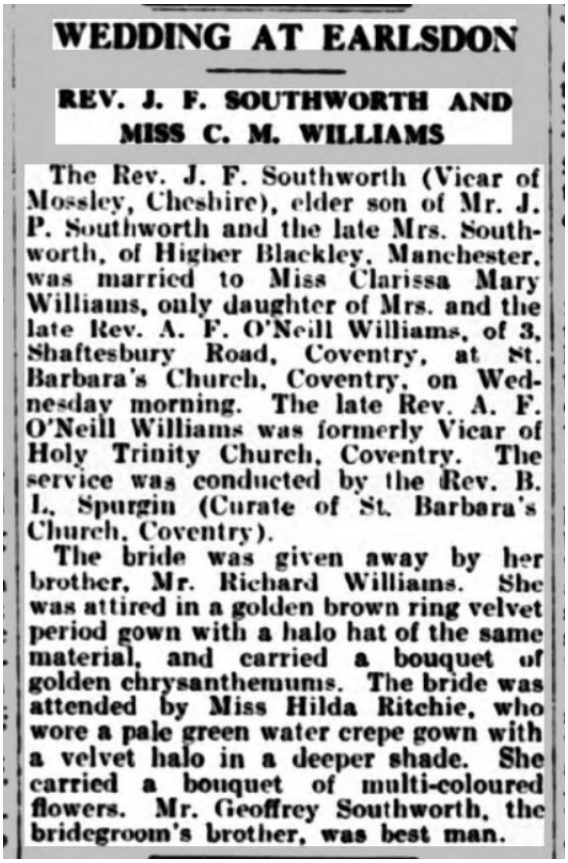
"Because of the shabby treatment of the parishioners in Mossley in refusing to relieve me of the burden of dilapidations," the Rev. Charles Hodgetts Bagott, vicar of Clifton-on-Tome, Worcester, formerly vicar of Mossley, Manchester, revoked a clause in his will.

Under this clause, Mr. Bagott, whose estate was valued at £42,377, left £500 each to Lichfield Theological College, and the Additional Curates' Society.

John Hands was born on 1 October 1884, in Aston, in Warwickshire. John Hands married Ann Marie Parker on 19 July 1906 at St Peter's Church in Leicester. At this time John was a grocer. John and Ann Marie had two daughters, and they named both Dorothy, the first daughter having died in early infancy. The 1911 Census shows John, a sweet confectionery traveller, Ann, and their second daughter Dorothy living at 6 Park Avenue, Leicester. This Census also shows that their first daughter had already died. John must have trained in the ministry post 1911. John Hands is listed on the incumbents board as being at St George's Church from 1925-1928. John and Annie Hands, appear in the Electoral Register for 1925—1928, when they were living at The Vicarage, Stamford Street, Mossley. In 1928 Revd Hands accepted the living of St Agnes, in Reddish. The 1939 Register shows John, a Clerk in Holy Orders, his wife Ann, and daughter Dorothy, a Probation Officer, living at The Rectory, Gorton Road, Stockport.

Ernest Bradshaw Clarke BA was born in 1899 in Oldham. In 1911 Ernest Bradshaw Clarke was 22 years old, a Student in Holy Orders, living at 332 Ripponden Road, Oldham. His father was a Cotton Weaving Manager, and his older brother was an Inspector of Factories. Three other siblings had already died. Ernest Bradshaw Clarke obtained his BA in 1911, and was Ordinated as a Priest in 1913. Ernest Bradshaw Clarke, a Clerk in Holy Orders age 28 years living at the Mitre Hotel in Manchester, married Dorothy Beal, age 20 years, at Manchester Cathedral, on 10 October 1917, by Licence. In 1920 Revd Ernest Bradshaw Clarke, living in Manchester, became a member of the Ardwick Lodge of Freemasons. In 1924 Revd Clarke was the Curate at Saint Anne-on-the-Sea when he was appointed to the newly constituted living at St Hilda's in Audenshaw. The incumbents board at tells us that Revd Clarke was the minister at St George's Church in Mossley 1928-1936. Both Ernest and Dorothy appear in the Electoral Register for 1931, they were living at The Vicarage, Stamford Street, Mossley. In 1936 Revd Clarke accepted the living at Strood, In Kent. The 1939 Register shows Revd Clarke living at the Vicarage London Road, Rochester. Revd Clarke died in 1963 in Lancaster, age 74 years. His wife Dorothy died in 1965 in Salford, age 68 years.

John Fletcher Southworth BD was the son of a trained, certificated, schoolmaster, he was born on 11 January 1906 in Prestwich, and was Baptised on 26 August 1906 at St Thomas', Lower Crumpsall. The 1911 Census shows the Southworth family living at 45 Hall Road, Crumpsall, Manchester. John Fletcher Southworth married Clarissa Mary Freda Williams, the daughter of a former Clergyman in H M Prison Service, in 1936 in Coventry. They had two children. The Incumbents Board shows that Revd Southworth was the Vicar of Mossley from 1936. In 1939 Revd Southworth, and his wife Clarissa were living at The Vicarage on Stamford Street in Mossley. Revd Southworth preached his last sermon in Mossley in January 1941 to become a Chaplain in the RAF. Revd F R Jeremiah BA was his successor, as Curate, then he 1942 he moved to Bradford in Manchester. The next Curate-in-Charge was Revd G U Wilkinson who helped start the Boys Guild. In 1946 Revd Southworth, Chaplain to R A F Sealand, paid homage to "The Few" when the 6th anniversary of "The Battle of Britain" was held at Chester Cathedral. Revd Southworth, of Bristol, died on 14 October 1976 in Weston-Super-Mare. He left Effects worth £15,226. Clarissa Southworth died in 1993, age 83 years, in Glamorgan, Wales. She left Effects worth £125,000.



WEDDING AT EARLSDON

REV. J. F. SOUTHWORTH AND MISS C. M. WILLIAMS

The Rev. J. F. Southworth (Vicar of Mossley, Cheshire), elder son of Mr. J. P. Southworth and the late Mrs. Southworth, of Higher Blackley, Manchester, was married to Miss Clarissa Mary Williams, only daughter of Mrs. and the late Rev. A. F. O'Neill Williams, of 3, Shaftesbury Road, Coventry, at St. Barbara's Church, Coventry, on Wednesday morning. The late Rev. A. F. O'Neill Williams was formerly Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Coventry. The service was conducted by the Rev. B. L. Spurgin (Curate of St. Barbara's Church, Coventry).

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Richard Williams. She was attired in a golden brown ring velvet period gown with a halo hat of the same material, and carried a bouquet of golden chrysanthemums. The bride was attended by Miss Hilda Ritchie, who wore a pale green water crepe gown with a velvet halo in a deeper shade. She carried a bouquet of multi-coloured flowers. Mr. Geoffrey Southworth, the bridegroom's brother, was best man.

Stanley George Paine was born on 15 July 1899 in Raunds, Northamptonshire, and was baptised on 13 August 1899 in Oundle, Northamptonshire. Stanley George Paine was the son of a butcher. During the Great War Stanley George Paine served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as Ordinary Signaller Z/6781. Stanley was 5' $8^{1}/_{8}$'' in height and had grey eyes. From 1917-1918 he served aboard Victory VI, and from 1918-1919 he served aboard Pembrooke. He was awarded the British War Medal. In 1935 Revd Stanley George Paine, Curate of Christ Church, Chadderton, living in Werneth, married Evelyn Vera Sewell at St James' Church in Bolton, Bradford. As they left the church a troop of girl guides formed a guard of honour, Evelyn Vera having been the Lieutenant of the 48th Company of the St Cuthbert's Girl Guides. She was also a Sunday School Worker. Stanley and Evelyn's son was born in 1936 in Oldham. In 1939 Revd Stanley George Paine, a Clerk in Holy Orders, and his family, were living at 125 Heywood Road, Rochdale.

The incumbent's board, and a brass plaque near to the Altar, tells us that Revd Stanley George Paine was the Vicar of Mossley 1946-1953. Revd Stanley George Paine died on 26 March 1953, age 53 years, and was buried at St George's Church, Mossley. His wife Evelyn Vera died in Northamptonshire, on 27 July 2000, she was 91 years old. Evelyn Vera is also named on the headstone, which stands in the 1938 ground, the site of the first St George's Chapel.



John Bickley MA was born on 4 June 1912. He was Ordained in 1936. He gained his MA at Oxford. The 1939 Register shows that he was a Clergy Man (Priest) lodging at 5 Adams Avenue, Stoke-On-Trent. He held the Curacies at Christ Church, Tunstall, and at Tettenhall before going to St John's at Goldenhill, Staffordshire in 1945, where he stayed for seven years and carried out many improvements to the church, including the £1,000 war memorial clock in the tower. He had been clerk to the Stoke Ruridecanal Chapter. In 1952 he accepted the living of Newborough, near Burton-on-Trent. The incumbents board shows that Revd John Bickley was at St George's, Mossley, 1953-1962. In 1956 his telephone number was Mossley 219. John Bickley died in 1997 in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, aged 85 years old.

Eric Douglas Geddes was born on 14 January 1903 in Liverpool, he was the son of a provisions importer. Eric Douglas was baptised on 15 March 1903 at Christ Church, Kensington, Lancashire. In 1911 the Geddes family were living at 30 Laurel Road, Liverpool. Eric Douglas was registered on the Electoral Roll in Liverpool from 1925. On 21 April 1930 Eric Douglas Geddes married Vera Clinton, on the Isle of Man. In 1939 Revd Eric Geddes, a C of E Clerk in Holy Orders, was living with his wife, Vera, at 16 The Vicarage, Lambeth, London. Revd Geddes was also registered on the WW2 emergency workers list. The 1940 City of London Directory list his address as 16 St Stephens Terrace, South Lambeth, SW8. His phone number was RELiance 1464. TV listings for 10 August 1957, 26 October 1957, and 21 December 1957 show that Revd Eric Geddes was to read the Epilogue on the Commercial Channel. The incumbent board shows Revd Geddes at St George's, Mossley, 1962-1964. He retired on his doctor's advice. His last service was on Easter Day. Revd Eric Douglas Geddes died, age 66 years, in 1969, in Manchester.

Douglas Edward Walter Harrison was born on 30 March 1903, he was the son of a tanners labourer. The 1911 Census shows the Harrison family living at 67 Chelsea Road, Litherland, Liverpool. Douglas E W Harrison married Monica Aileen Baker in 1933, in Oxford. In 1939 Revd Harrison, a Clerk in Holy Orders, and his wife were living at 26 Thorncliffe Road, Oxford. Revd Harrison was instituted to St George's, Mossley, by the Bishop of Manchester in 1964. He was inducted in the Cathedral. He stayed at Mossley until 1969. Revd Harrison died in 1974 in Bristol. He was 71 years old. Monica Harrison died in 1990 in Somerset. She was 86 years old. The St George's incumbents board shows him as W Edward Harrison.



John Peace BA was born in 1937, the son of a commercial traveller. The Peace family lived, for a while in Morecambe, and then moved to Lancaster. John passed his 11+, and attended the Royal Lancaster Grammar School. During his first year in the 6th form his father decided to start a radio / television business in Rochdale, and so the whole of the Peace family were uprooted, and John transferred to Rochdale Grammar School. Whilst in Lancaster John joined the Lancaster Priory Choir; he always had a great passion for church music, and model railways. By the age of 17 he was absolutely certain that he was being called to the ministry. He joined St Martin's Church Choir as a tenor, and at his first choir practice met Sheila, a soprano. Whilst Sheila was away at teacher training college John wrote to her everyday. John undertook a degree, gaining his BA in 1960, and then spent two years at Salisbury Theological College. He had to take an "O" level in Latin. John was offered the curacy at All Saints' Church on the Isle of Man, to start in September 1962. This meant John and Sheila needed to marry at Easter 1962, which they did. John was ordained Deacon in September 1962, and was ordained Priest in June 1963. In 1966 John was offered Priest in charge of St Anne's in Salford, but two years later the area was redeveloped for industrial use. Before John left he was presented with a beautiful set of communion vessels with rubies set in the base. In 1969 the PCC of St George's expressed their desire for a young family man to become vicar, and so John and Sheila, with their three children, arrived in Mossley. Very soon they were joined by a fourth child. John encouraged parents of children attending the Sunday School to come into Church to see their children being blessed at the end of morning service. The congregation grew substantially. In 1974 the churchyard was landscaped, and the church was sandblasted, and in 1975 Mossley Brow Sunday School closed. In 1974 John was diagnosed with a serious health condition, although he continued with his ministry he died in Manchester Royal Infirmary on 22 May 1976. He was only 38 years old. His funeral service took place at St George's Church on Ascension Day, 30 May 1976, a Feast day. The church was full to overflowing. Following cremation at Dukinfield his ashes were scattered on the Garden of Remembrance at St George's on 30 May 1976. There you will find a commemorative plaque to John. Exactly a year after John's death Sheila and members of the family gave a ciborium (the vessel used for the bread of the Eucharist) to St George's Church in his memory. It is used on special occasions and is inscribed:

"In loving memory of the Reverend John Peace the Vicar of St George's Church Mossley 1969-1976."



Albert Atherton

Rev Atherton entered the Ministry in 1962, serving two curacies in South Manchester before becoming Vicar of Patricroft, Eccles, in 1966. At the end of 1970 he left the Ministry in order to train as a Probation Officer. This experience broadened and deepened his view of life. He and his wife Ruth, who taught at a comprehensive school, became increasingly sure that the Christian Ministry was the right way for them. Albert Atherton was licensed at Manchester Cathedral on 13 February 1977 and his induction at St George's Church by the Archdeacon took place on the 25 February 1977, in the presence of local dignitaries and a large congregation. At his first PCC meeting in July 1977 he remarked that he and his family had been made most welcome in the parish. He stated that everything had been left in good order by the late Revd John Peace. Revd Atherton set out his aims which were to look outwards, be evangelical, improve service to missionaries, and to have good cooperation with other churches. He also suggested that he would welcome women acting as wardens and sidesmen. During the six years of his ministry Albert Atherton led the congregation through a number of significant changes. The sale of Mossley Brow Church land for £6,000 was completed in 1980. The church room was created, and the first meeting of the PCC in the room was held on 12 March 1980. A kitchen was fitted early in 1981. The church room was, and still is, well used. The font and the cradle roll were repositioned outside the room. The church PA system was installed in 1981. In the same year £4,000 was spent on the vicarage at Rev Atherton's request, to deal with rot and the lack of heating. In 1982 during a time of reorganisation and amalgamation of schools there was a strong possibility that the day school would be closed by the Local Education Authority. The parishioners, parents and staff led by the Rev Atherton raised money, held meetings, and eventually averted this threat. Various alterations, repairs and improvements needed to be done to the school building and a proportion of this, £15,000, had to be paid by the PCC. During late April and early May 1982 the church centenary was celebrated. There was a Mothers' Union Eucharist with the bishop, a Sunday School Pageant, a Party, a Concert and a Hoe Down. Souvenirs were sold and a special commemorative magazine was produced. The small mission church, St Augustine's, Hartshead, was closed in September 1982. It was eventually sold for living accommodation to a private buyer, and several items of memorabilia brought to St George's. The Rev Albert Atherton left St George's Parish in September 1983 to take up a living in Ockbrook, Derbyshire.

Photo Below: The Centenary of the present St George's church building in 1982. Left to Right: Church Wardens: Allan Ogden and Bill Webster, Reader: Harry Pickles, Vicar: Revd Albert Atherton, Bishop: Stanley Booth. The cake had been made at Ashton Technical College and was cut by the Bishop.



Richard Lindsay

Vicar at St George's from 1984. Born in 1946, brought up and educated in Eastbourne, attended Eastbourne Grammar School. Trained for three years at Culham Teacher Training College, Abingdon. Taught RE for four years at a Comprehensive School in Coventry and was a server in Coventry Cathedral. Following the call to the ministry trained for three years at Salisbury Theological College. Was Ordained in Chichester Cathedral and served for three years as a Curate to the Parish of Aldwick, in Bognor Regis. Moved to the Parish of Almondbury, Huddersfield to be in charge of St Michael's and St Helen's. Appointed to the Parish of St George in Mossley in 1984, with a brief to raise the churchmanship. Vestment and Reserved Sacrament were quickly introduced. During Father Lindsay's incumbency many building improvements, repairs, and protections were undertaken: The sale of St Augustine's made possible the installation of an indoor disable access toilet to replace outdoor toilets, and the installation of the podium. The gas powered overhead radiant heating system was installed in the late 1980's. Parts of the side aisle roof were refitted and re-slated. The two rooms were formed at either end of the gallery. The east window had to be refurbished and strengthened. The St George's window at the west end had to be completely replaced. Other windows had their external protection renewed. When parts of the ceiling plaster fell down £32,000 was quickly raised for repairs, and at the same time the Church was completely redecorated and the organ refurbished. Major works were necessary when there was a severe crack in the Chancel arch. Funding from the English Heritage / Heritage Lottery enabled a new bell-frame, refurbishment of the bells, the Tower Pinnacles and the Tower, and re-roofing of the Choir Vestry. Major overhauls and replacement of the churchyard drains were carried out by Tameside MBC. Initiated the erection of the 24 foot high Cross above Mossley in 1994, in conjunction with Churches Together. Held the Chairmanship of the Mossley Old People's Committee, Mossley Action for the Elderly, and set up the Luncheon Club in the George Lawton Hall. Set up the monthly Sunday afternoon Chit Chat Club for the elderly in the Methodist premises. For a time ran Mytag, weekly disco's for the youth in the George Lawton Hall. Along with Pauline Phillips, the Curate, introduced fund-raising efforts such as the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump from the top of the Tower, regular Car Boot sales, and the Summer Fair. Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of Pauline, with the Searchers, the church kitchen fittings were replaced. Always tried to be faithful to the task of serving the Church and the wider Parish. In 2015, after 31 years service at St George's, Father Lindsay, the third longest serving vicar, retired to West Yorkshire.





Above Right: Pauline Phillips, the first female Curate at St George's, photograph taken Whit Friday. The stole that she is wearing was made for her by the children, it is decorated with a dove.

David Warner

Vicar at St George's from 2016



David was born in 1980 in the West Midlands, and the family moved to Surrey in 1987. At the age of 10, David became a server at St Peter's Church, Frimley. While at school David was a member of the Sea Cadet Corps. David read History at the University of Leicester, was Head Server at St Martin's Cathedral and worked there for a year as an administrative assistant after graduation. David became a pastoral assistant at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban in 2003 and went on to work for a railway company, first in customer relations and then managing train crews. David remained a member of the St Albans Abbey congregation, assisting with several youth groups and the annual Alban Pilgrimage celebrating the witness of Britain's first martyr. David trained for ordination at the College of the Resurrection. Ordained deacon in 2013 and priest in 2014, David served as Assistant Curate in the Parish of Abbots Langley and in September 2016 became 20th Vicar of St George's, 16th Vicar of St John the Baptist, Roughtown, and the 1st Vicar of Mossley, in the Diocese of Manchester, bringing together for the first time the three historic parishes of Mossley, Roughtown, and Micklehurst with one benefice. Fr David looks after two churches and is a governor of the three church schools. He oversaw the renovation of the entrance at St George's and has led on several large scale events, welcoming hundreds to the church - at the annual Christmas tree festival, an exhibition to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War (which welcomed more that 1600 people), and a month of celebrations of the bi-centenary of Peterloo. David married the Revd Penny King in April 2019, and she became Vicar of St George's, Stalybridge, in January 2020.

Ian Brocklehurst

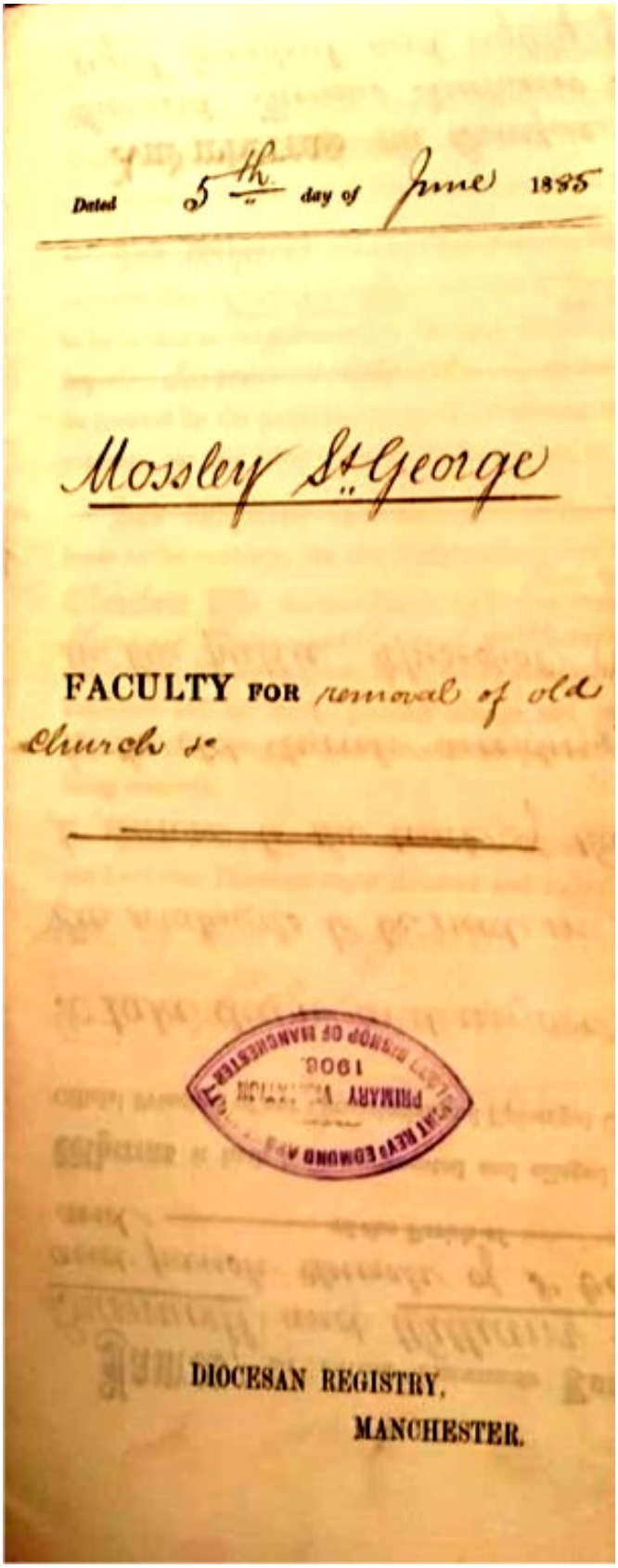
The Revd Ian Brocklehurst. Associate Priest, Parish of Mossley.

November 2018 to date



Ian grew up in Stretford and Alderley Edge. After leaving school he read Medicine at The University of Nottingham, and he spent most of his working life in the NHS, the majority as a consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Oldham Hospital. He had interests in obstetric anaesthesia and anaesthesia for vascular surgery, and also in the recruitment and training of anaesthetists.

Although a life-long churchgoer, it was only as recently as 2010 that Ian sensed God's call to ordained ministry. He trained with All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry, gaining a Foundation Degree in Arts (FdA Mission and Ministry) with the University of Chester. He was ordained deacon in 2015 and priest in 2016, both at Manchester Cathedral. Ian served his curacy at Holy Trinity, Coldhurst and Saint Stephen and All Martyrs, Lower Moor, in Oldham. Ian is married to Liz. They still live in Oldham, in an adjacent parish to Saint John the Baptist, Roughtown! They have two grown up sons, Andrew and Peter.



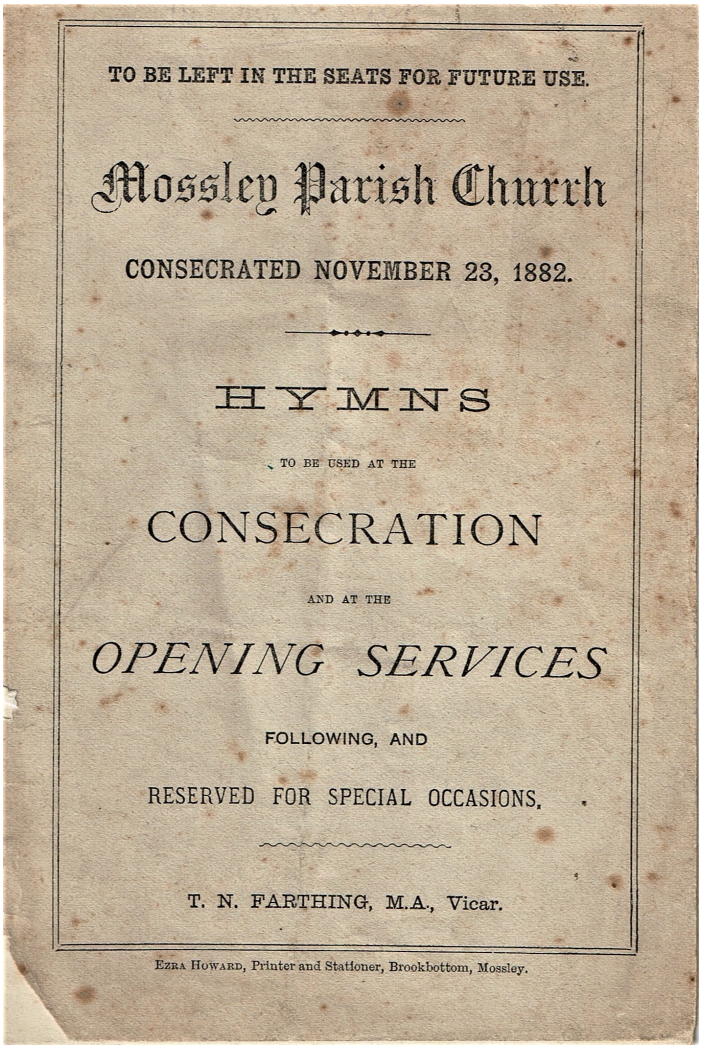
Dated 5th day of June 1885

Mossley St George

FACULTY FOR removal of old Church &c

DIOCESAN REGISTRY,
MANCHESTER.

Above:
The Faculty for the Removal of the Old Chapel dated 5th June 1885.



TO BE LEFT IN THE SEATS FOR FUTURE USE.

Mossley Parish Church

CONSECRATED NOVEMBER 23, 1882.

HYMNS

TO BE USED AT THE

CONSECRATION

AND AT THE

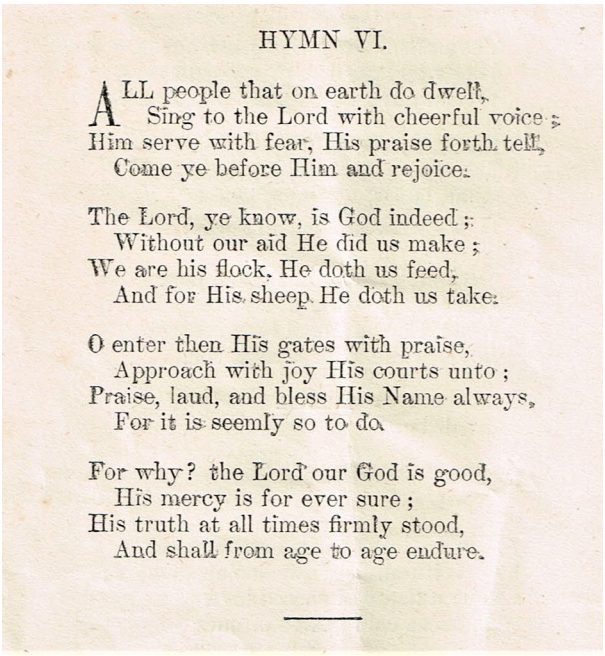
OPENING SERVICES

FOLLOWING, AND

RESERVED FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

T. N. FARTHING, M.A., Vicar.

Ezra Howard, Printer and Stationer, Brookbottom, Mossley.



HYMN VI.

ALL people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are his flock, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Above:
The Hymns used at the Consecration Service of the new St George's Church on 28th November 1882.

Printed by Ezra Howard, a Bookseller and Stationer and Printer, of Brookbottom, Mossley. Ezra is commemorated on a brass plaque on a table at the rear of St George's Church, near the centre aisle.

List of All Incumbents At St George's

John Craddock	1757	First Curate	Buried inside St George's Chapel
Matthew Sedgwick	1777		Buried inside St George's Chapel
George Birch	1790		Became Curate at Alderley
Bartholomew Dacre	1793	37 years service	Buried inside St George's Chapel
John Hextall	1831	33 years service	Buried in the churchyard of St George's
George Alfred Jones	1864	First Vicar	Buried in the churchyard of St George's
Thomas Newham Farthing	1872		Interred at St John's Church, Lytham
Anthony Hall	1885		Died in Mossley. Burial place not known
Charles Hodgetts Bagott	1902		Resigned due to ill health
John Hands	1925		Moved to St Agnes, Reddish, Stockport
Ernest Bradshaw Clarke	1928		Moved to Strood in Kent
John Fletcher Southworth	1936		Became a Chaplain in the RAF
Stanley George Paine	1946		Buried in St George's churchyard
John Bickley	1953		Died in 1997 in Bury St Edmunds
Eric Douglas Geddes	1962		Retired on his doctor's advice
Douglas Edward Walter Harrison	1964		Died in 1974 in Bristol
John Peace	1969		Garden of Remembrance, Mossley
Albert Atherton	1977		Moved to All Saints', Ockbrook, Derbys
Richard Lindsay	1984	31 years service	Retired to West Yorkshire
David Warner	2016		



Left:
Revd T N Farthing,
Vicar 1872—1885.

Revd Farthing was the vicar when St George's School was opened in 1873, and when the present St George's Church was built (the church was consecrated in 1882).
The old St George's Chapel was demolished in 1885, the same year that Revd Farthing died.

A beautiful chased trowel with a carved ivory handle, with a suitable inscription, also a mallet and level, were presented to Mrs Farthing, who had been appointed to the lay the foundation stone of Mossley Brow Sunday School in 1876.



Above:
Revd Anthony Hall M A Vicar 1885—1902
The Bell Tower and Clock were added in 1887

Below:
Revd John Hands Vicar 1925—1928
The Children's Corner was created In 1926





Above:
Revd Charles H Bagott M A Vicar 1902—1925
Gifted the Memorial Chapel to St George's

Below:
Revd Eric Geddes Vicar 1962—1964
Read The Epilogue on ITV in 1957





Stained Glass from a window originally in the Old St George's Chapel, was used to construct the window now located in the disabled access WC in the present St George's.



The inscription on the
Stained Glass Window reads:
This window originally in the old Chapel was restored and placed here October 1905.
C H Bagott MA Vicar
F G Bullock MA Curate
F T Bradshaw MA Curate
Thomas L Buckley Warden
James Taylor Warden

Below:
The matching stained glass windows
One was installed on either side of the western balcony.
In 1989 storage rooms were created, one on each side of the balcony.
Today there is one "round" window in each of the store rooms.



The Stained Glass Windows of St George's Church

With grateful thanks to Paul Renshaw for his research.

When St George's Church opened in 1882 most of its windows would have been of plain glass.

There are three stained glass windows that were originally installed in the first St George's Chapel, and were refitted into the second St George's Church. One is the window which is now in the disabled access WC, and is featured on the page opposite. The other two were originally installed in 1869. They were "*erected as a tribute of respect to the memory of Revd John Hextall who was upwards of thirty years incumbent of this Parish*". These two windows now flank the east window. The work for both of these two flanking windows was executed by Messrs Cox and Co of London.

The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 24 November 1882 tells us that the first stained glass windows manufactured for the second St George's Church, and placed on the south aisle by the time St George's Church was consecrated, are the pretty Sarah Beswick windows, and the adjoining windows dedicated to her sons, John and Thomas Beswick.

The other stained glass windows at St George's have been produced over different periods by different designers and manufacturers and are of a high quality. The maker of eleven of the windows is unknown.

There are two windows by Mayer of Munich, one on the north side, and the impressive east window which stands above the altar and depicts "The Ascension", this was installed in 1884 and has been described as "*a fine a specimen of stained glass window as one can wish to see"*.

There are windows by the Belgium firm Capronnier, who were glass painters, designers, and inventors. These windows date from 1893, and therefore were fitted some time after the opening of the church. Jean-Baptiste Capronnier's work and windows gained recognition at the Paris Exhibition in 1855 where he won the only medal given for glass painting. His work has been described as "*blatantly bright and technically brilliant*". There are other examples of his work in the Tameside and Oldham area. The Capronnier windows at St George's are a collaboration with Francis Comere, also from Brussels, and can be found on the west wall of the church room and the north wall of the church itself.

On the south side, and in the kitchen area, are windows by Messrs Edmundson and Son of Manchester, these date from 1899.

Above the balcony, on the west wall, are three stained glass windows, "St George", the "Rose Window" which depicts the Holy Spirit, and "The Light of the World" which is based on the painting by the pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt. These windows were installed "*in Loving Memory of the Revd Anthony Hall MA Vicar of this Church 1885—1902*".

The former St Augustine's east window, dating from the late 1920's, is now installed on the staircase.

Within the porch is a stained glass window by the firm of William Morris of Westminster that dates from the late 1930's. This William Morris firm is not to be confused with their more famous namesake, the William Morris of pre-Raphaelite tapestries and wall paper fame.

A visiting archbishop once described St George's as "The Cathedral of the Peak", although it has to be said that St Bartholomew's Church in Marsden, a few miles away, just across the Pennines, is known as "The Cathedral of the Colne Valley". Pevsner though described St George's as being "rather dull". Oh well, you can't please all of the people all of the time. We the residents of Mossley though much appreciate St George's.

The Stained Glass Windows

Enter St George's church through the main entrance, through the porch, the narthex, the western vestibule, and then walk around the church in a clockwise direction.
The first stained glass window that you will see was made by William Morris & Co Westminster.

The Narthex—Simeon and Anna blessing the infant Jesus in the Temple
—the Edward Alfred Dennis Pilkington window



Edward Alfred Dennis Pilkington was born in In Wakefield in 1866. By 1881 his family were living in Salford and Edward was working as a telegraph clerk. Edward married Rebecca Adeline Marshall in 1893 at All Saints, Chorlton on Medlock. They had two children, Phyllis born in 1896, and Richard Dudley born in 1898. The 1901 census shows Edward and his family living at Saddleworth Station, Dobcross. Edward was buried at St George's Church, Mossley, on 13 March 1935. His wife Rebecca, who had been born in Chorlton, died in Mossley in 1937. Edward and Rebecca were buried in the same grave as Rebecca's sister Elizabeth who had died in 1920. They were later joined by their son Richard and daughter Phyllis. Son Richard served as a Wireless Operator in the Royal Naval Reserve during the second world war. He died at home in Mossley in 1965. Daughter Phyllis married Walter Mayhew in 1941 at the Mossley Christian (Unitarian) Church in Mossley, she died in Ashton hospital in 1971. The family headstone can still be seen in St George's churchyard, lying against the west wall in the 1874 ground.



Left: Richard Dudley Pilkington who, with his sister Phyllis, erected this stained glass window.



On The Staircase that leads to the balcony—the Ascension—the Mary Jane Barlow window

Originally installed as the East Window at St Augustine's Church in 1929.
(Winifred M Bowman JP—5,000 Acres of Old Ashton. Winifred M Bowman's book also describes the 1921 St Augustine's Bible, this is now safely stored in the St George's Church archives.)

The inscription on this stained glass window reads:
To The Glory of God and In Loving Memory of Mary Jane Barlow Who Died March 2 1927.



Mary Jane Cottrell was born in 1868, and her family lived at Brown Edge farm, Hartshead.

Mary Jane Cottrell married Richard Barlow on 15 July 1896 at St George's Church.
They then lived at Brown Edge Farm.

It would appear that Brown Edge Farm came with the lease for the nearby quarry. The quarry being leased from Lord Stamford.

The quarry being the source for sand, the occupation of the head of the household being carter or sandman.

The 1911 census shows Richard, and son Fred, working together in the quarry.

Mary Jane Barlow died in 1927, age 58, and she was buried at St George's Church.

Widower Richard Barlow married widow Jane Radcliffe, in 1930, and they lived at her home at 11 Barkwell Lane, Mossley.

Son Fred Barlow died in 1935. He was buried in Grave 12a, Range 26, in the 1832 Ground. His headstone was removed in 1974.

Jane Barlow, nee Radcliffe, died in 1946, she was buried in Grave 25, 1820 Ground.

Richard Barlow died in 1953. He may have been buried in the grave next to his son. There was no headstone in 1974.

In 1945 William and Patrick Mullaney signed a lease, no sand was to be quarried, the site was to be used as storage, landfill, or as a transfer site. The scrap metal business started by Patrick was taken over by his sons and still exists to this day.

The West Wall of the Church Room—Mary and Martha—the Sandiford windows

This stained glass window was made by F Comere & J Capronnier Glass Painters, Drawers & Inventors. Brussels. 1894. Their stained glass windows are recognisable by the distinctive red band across the base.



Mary Ann Hilton married John Sandiford on 29 May 1820 at Manchester Cathedral. John was a clothier. The 1841, 1851, and 1861 Census' show Mary Ann Sandiford living at Quick Edge in Mossley, she was a widow, an annuitant, living on independent means. Mary Ann Sandiford was buried at St George's Chapel, Mossley, on 18 September 1869. She was 69 years old. Her headstone still survives, it is now Headstone 56 on Path Two. Mary Ann was buried with three of her daughters, all of whom predeceased her. Buried with the Sandifords is Jane Hughes who died in 1861 aged 78 years, she was *a faithful domestic servant for 40 years*.

Photo Below: Believed to be Mary Ann Sandiford



Another of her children, Edmund, dedicated this stained glass window to her. It reads as: "Dedicated to the Glory of God and to the Memory of Mary Ann Sandiford who died Sept 14th 1869 aged 69 years. The beloved mother of Edmund Sandiford."



The West Wall of the Church Room—Mary and Martha—the Sandiford windows—continued

This stained glass window was made by F Comere & J Capronnier Glass Painters, Drawers & Inventors. Brussels. 1894. Their stained glass windows are recognisable by the distinctive red band across the base.



This inscription reads as: "Dedicated to the Glory of God and to the Memory of Elizabeth Ann Sandiford who died Feb 24th 1890 Aged 56. The beloved wife of Edmund Sandiford by whom these windows were erected 1894."

Edmund, the son of Mary Ann and John Sandiford was born in Belfast, Ireland. All of his siblings were born in England.

The 1861 and 1871 Census' show Edmund as a schoolmaster.

Edmund Sandiford, a schoolmaster, was 40 years old and living in Lees, when he married Elizabeth Ann Broadbent, age 38 years and living in Mossley. They married at St Thomas' Church, Leesfield, Oldham, on 24 October 1871. Elizabeth Ann Broadbent had worked as a dressmaker.

By 1881 Edmund was an estate agent living at Grafton Terrace, Stamford Road, Mossley, with his wife Elizabeth Ann who had been born in Stonehouse, in Devon, also living with them was Elizabeth Ann's father, James Broadbent, a Greenwich Naval Pensioner. Elizabeth Ann's mother Susannah had died in 1860.

James Broadbent was buried at St George's on 26 March 1887. He was 89 years old. His daughter Elizabeth Ann Sandiford was buried at St George's Church, on 28 February 1890. She was 55 years old. Edmund Sandiford was buried at St George's on 30 November 1892. He was 62 years old.

There was no headstone for Edmund and Elizabeth, or for her father James, in 1974.

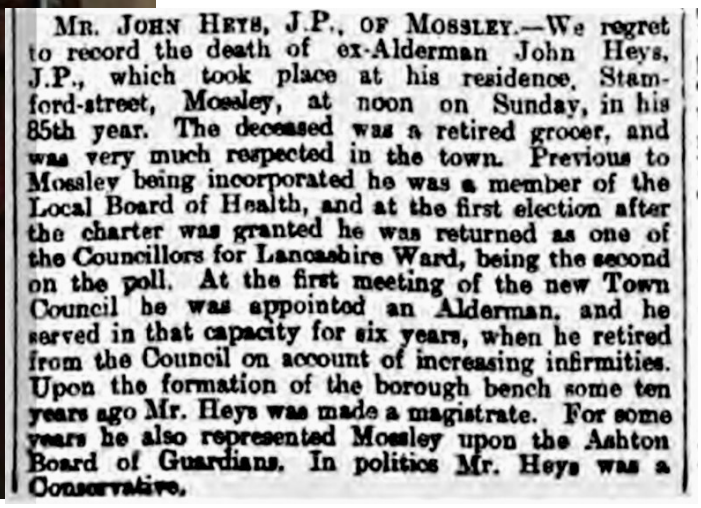


North Wall of the Church Room—The Lord is my Shepherd—the John Heys J P window

The inscription at the base of the window reads:
"The Lord is my Shepherd" and
"To the Glory of God and in memory of the late John Heys J P who died April 30th 1899 Aged 84 years."



John Heys was Baptised on 11 September 1814, at St Michael's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne.
John Heys married Ellen Slater on 9 July 1837 in Mottram.
Their daughter Susannah was born in 1839.
The 1841 Census shows the young family living at Roughtown, John was employed as a Cotton Spinner.
Ellen Heys died 27 February 1946. Her headstone was removed in 1974.
John Heyes married Jane Waterhouse on 10 May 1846 in Mottram.
The 1851 Census shows John, Jane, Susannah, and three more children, the daughters of Jane, living at Spring Cottages.
By the time of the 1861 Census there were eight children in the family.
The 1871 and 1881 Census shows the Heys family living at Hey's Yard, Stamford Street, Mossley.
John was now a self-employed Grocer.
By 1891 John Heys, age 76 years, had retired, and was living on his own means.
Jane died in 1895, she was 78 years old.
John Heys died in Mossley in 1899, he was 84 years of age.
He was buried at St George's Church on 3 May 1899. There is no surviving headstone for John



MR. JOHN HEYS, J.P., OF MOSSLEY.—We regret to record the death of ex-Alderman John Heys, J.P., which took place at his residence, Stamford-street, Mossley, at noon on Sunday, in his 85th year. The deceased was a retired grocer, and was very much respected in the town. Previous to Mossley being incorporated he was a member of the Local Board of Health, and at the first election after the charter was granted he was returned as one of the Councillors for Lancashire Ward, being the second on the poll. At the first meeting of the new Town Council he was appointed an Alderman, and he served in that capacity for six years, when he retired from the Council on account of increasing infirmities. Upon the formation of the borough bench some ten years ago Mr. Heys was made a magistrate. For some years he also represented Mossley upon the Ashton Board of Guardians. In politics Mr. Heys was a Conservative.

On the Balcony—the west wall—the Light of the World window

For Health and Safety reasons there is restricted public access to the balcony.

The Light of the World stained glass window, along with the Rose Window, and the St George Window, can be viewed from the ground floor of the main church area.
These three windows were given by the family of Revd Hall who died in 1902, Rev Hall having been the vicar of St George's for 17 years. A plaque below the windows records this.
Although Rev Hall died in Mossley it is not known where he is buried.
For a photograph of the St George window please see the inside of the front cover, and for a photograph of the Rose window please see the rear cover.

Below Right: The Light of the World painting by the Pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt.
Below Left: The Light of the World Stained Glass Window at St George's that is based on the painting.
In the late afternoon the sunlight shines through the Light of the World window and illuminates the lantern in Christ's Hand.





The North Wall of the Church—the Shepherds Hear Good Tidings—the Janet Elizabeth Andrew windows

This stained glass window was made by F Comere & J Capronnier Bruxellensisfecit. 1892.
Note the distinctive red band at the base.



The inscription reads:
"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy. To The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Janet Elizabeth second daughter of James Lawton Andrew MD and Marianne his wife born October 8th 1869 died May 12th 1884."

Janet Elizabeth was born at Baguley Hill, Mossley, her birth was registered in Delph, and she was baptised on 23 September 1870 at St George's Chapel, Mossley.

The 1871 and 1881 Census' show the Andrew family living on Stamford Road, Mossley.

Janet had an older sister, Kate, and a younger brother Thomas Perkins. Their mother's maiden name being Perkins.

Janet Elizabeth Andrew died on 12 May 1884, and she was buried 16 May 1884, at St George's Church.

The burial book says that she was 14 years old.

The family headstone was removed in 1974.

Also within St George's Church are: a stained glass window to her brother Thomas Perkins Andrew who died in 1893, and a Memorial Plaque to their father James Lawton Andrew MD who died in 1907.



The North Wall of the Church—after His resurrection Jesus on the road to Emmaus with two disciples —the Thomas Perkins Andrew windows



This stained glass window was made by F Comere & J Capronnier. Glass Painters, Drawers & Inventors. Brussels. 1893.
Note the distinctive red band at the base.

The inscription on this Stained Glass Window reads:
"Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His Glory. St Luke 24-20.
To The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Thomas Perkins Andrew only son of James Lawton Andrew and Marianne his wife."

Thomas Perkins Andrew was born on 28 April 1872, at Baguley Hill, Mossley, Yorkshire.

He was the son of James Lawton Andrew MD and his wife Marianne (nee Perkins).

Thomas Perkins was Baptised at St George's Chapel on 25 May 1872.

The 1881 and 1891 Census' show the Andrew family living on Stamford Road, Mossley.

Thomas Perkins had two older sisters, Kate, and Janet Elizabeth.

Thomas Parkins Andrew was 20 years old when he died on 28 December 1892.

He was buried at St George's Church on 2 January 1893.

Also within St George's Church is a stained glass window to his older sister Janet Elizabeth Andrew who died in 1884. There is also a Memorial Plaque to their father James Lawton Andrew MD who died in 1907.



The family headstone was removed in 1974.

The North Wall of the Church—Mary in Martha's house— wisdom of the Lord is needful — the Kitty Walmsley Andrew windows

This stained glass window was made by Mayer & Co, Munich & London, and is on the north wall.



It is inscribed: "One Thing Is Needful" and
"To The Glory of God and In Loving Memory of K Walmsley Andrew Daughter of Allen Andrew and Mary Ann his wife Who Died 28th January 1886."

Kitty Walmsley Andrew was born on 28 September 1835. She was Baptised on 15 December 1835 at the Methodist New Connection Church, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, she was the first child of Allen Andrew, who at the time was a Cotton Manufacturer, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and Mary Ann Andrew, who was the daughter of Doctor Andrew, of Micklehurst. There is a pair of stained glass windows, located directly opposite the Kitty Walmsley window, on the south side of the church, that are dedicated to Kitty's sister Alice, and their parents Allen and Mary Ann.

The 1851 Census shows Allen Andrew as a farmer, the Andrew family living at Dick Lane in Audenshaw. Allen Andrew died in 1856.
The 1861 and 1871 Census' show Kitty living on Stockport Road in Ashton. The 1871 Census shows her mother, Mary Ann, as a cottage proprietor.
By 1881 Kitty is living at Mount Gambier, Stamford Road, Mossley, in the same property as but in a separate household to her cousin, Andrew Beswick.

Kitty Walmsley Andrew, an annuitant, died on 28 January 1886, in Douglas, on the Isle of Man. She was 50 years old and she left a considerable sum of money for the time, £2,853 3s 4d. It is believed that Kitty was buried on the Isle of Man.

The windows dedicated to Kitty W Andrew, are between those to Janet E Andrew and Thomas P Andrew, all three are placed in chronological order.



The North Wall of the Church—the Matilda Kershaw windows
—the Angel announcing the resurrection of Jesus to the woman at the Sepulchre



The inscription on this window reads:
"And the angel answered and said unto the women fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified" and
"She hath done what she could" and
"Dedicated to the Glory of God and in Memory of Matilda, Widow of Jonathan Kershaw born March 20th 1828 died 1889, November 13th . This window was erected by her brother and sister, Andrew and Hannah Beswick 1890."
Matilda Beswick was born in France, she was the daughter of Sarah and John Beswick. Matilda Beswick married Jonathan Kershaw in 1847 at Manchester Collegiate Church (this church later became Manchester Cathedral). The 1851 Census shows Jonathan and Matilda living in Liverpool. When or where Jonathan Kershaw died, and the whereabouts of Matilda in 1861 and 1871 is not known.
The 1881 Census shows Matilda living at Mount Gambia, Stamford Road, Mossley, with her brother and her sister. Matilda's brother was Andrew Beswick, JP, a Retired Sheep Farmer, Matilda's sister was Hannah Beswick, an Annuitant, and Matilda Kershaw, was also an Annuitant. All three had been born in France, all were buried together.
Their headstone was removed in 1974.
Each of these siblings has a dedication on a stained glass window at St George's Church,
Staying at Mount Gambia in 1881 was cousin Kitty W Andrew, and her details are opposite.
Matilda Kershaw was 62 years old when she died in 1889. She was buried at St George's on 16 November 1889.





The Chancel—Either Side of the East Window—the John Hextall windows
For full details on Revd Hextall please see the Incumbents section at the beginning of this book.
The work for both of these windows was executed by Messrs Cox and Co of London.

Under the left hand, north side, stained glass windows is a brass plague that reads:
"This window was erected by a few friends as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Revd John Hextall who was upwards of thirty years incumbent of this Parish.
Revd G A Jones Vicar. C M Brumwell MD, H T Clementson, and Ben Smith, Churchwardens. Feb 1869."

Revd Hextall died in 1864, the windows were originally installed in 1869, and Revd Jones died in 1872. The foundation stone of the present St George's Church was not laid until 1879, therefore these two windows were made for the first St George's Chapel, and refitted into the present St George's Church.

Left Hand, North Side The window at the top depicts Moses with the tables of the law, and holds the inscription: "By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified". Romans 3.20.



The window immediately below is the full length figure of Christ bearing a lamb on his right shoulder, with the text underneath "I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep and am known of mine".



Right Hand, South Side The second window installed in 1869 in memory of Revd Hextall has the inscription: "Be Followers of Me."

At the base is St John the Baptist with the words "Repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand".

The East Window—Above The Alabaster Reredos—the John Mellor Kershaw window
The subject of the picture is "The Ascension of Christ" and is the work of M Mayer & Co of Munich.
The Inscription Reads: "Ye men of Galilee why stand ye gazing into heaven." and
"To the glory of God and in memory of the late J M Kershaw JP of Ashton-under-Lyne."

This window, the gift of James Holden of Rochdale, was installed in 1884, and was erected in memory of his Kershaw ancestors, who were closely connected with St George's. It has been said that this window is as fine a specimen of stained glass as one can wish to see. James Holden also gifted the pulpit and the Wrought Iron Staircase. John Mellor Kershaw had been born in Ashton-under-Lyne, he had three sisters. John Mellor never married. In January 1862 John Mellor Kershaw was appointed as a Governor of the Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, in the presence of Nathaniel Buckley and Hugh Mason. In August 1862 John Mellor Kershaw donated £200 to the Distress Relief Fund. In September 1866 John Mellor Kershaw was appointed as a JP. John Mellor Kershaw, of Dunham Terrace, Ashton-under-Lyne, died on 20 January 1869 and was interred in the family vault at St George's, Mossley. His monument was removed in 1974.



The South Wall of the Church—the Sarah Beswick windows
—woman at the well offering water to Christ—and the widow giving her mite

The inscription on this window reads:
"The woman said unto him Sir give me this water that I thirst not. Verily I say unto you that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast unto the treasury.
Dedicated to the memory of Sarah Beswick born April MDCCLXLVIII died April MDCCCLXXV.



This window is erected by her daughter Matilda Kershaw."

Sarah Andrew was born in 1798, she was the daughter of Doctor Andrew of Micklehurst. From 1797 Doctor Andrew of Micklehurst leased what became known as Doctor's Mill on Micklehurst Brook. From 1818 he appeared in Commercial Directories as a Woollen Manufacturer in Micklehurst. In 1816, when Sarah was 18 years old, she married John Beswick, who was a widower, aged 39 years old. Sarah and John had at least six children. John died in 1838, when he was 64 years old, he was buried at St George's. The 1841 and 1851 Census shows Sarah and her children living at Sandbed in Mossley. By 1871 Sarah was living at Mount Gambier, on Stamford Road, Mossley, with her daughter Matilda (who had married Jonathon Kershaw in 1847 and was now widowed) and her daughter Hannah (who never married) . Sarah died in 1875 and was buried at St George's.
Sarah's daughter Matilda erected this stained glass window at St George's and dedicated it to her mother. Matilda Kershaw and her sister Hannah Beswick also gave the font, and in 1887 the clock for the new church tower. There are several other stained glass windows at St George's Church that are dedicated to Sarah's children. The family headstone that named Sarah, her sons John and Thomas, and her daughter Mary Ann Pemberton, was removed in 1974.

The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 24 November 1882 tells us that the Sarah Beswick window, and the John and Thomas Beswick window, opposite, were the two pretty stained glass windows that had already been placed in the south aisle by the time St George's Church was consecrated.



The South Wall of the Church—the John and Thomas Beswick windows
—the adoration of the Magi —the presentation of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

The inscription on this window reads:
"And when they were come unto the house they saw the young child with Mary his mother and fell down and worshipped him and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts gold frankincense and myrrh. To the memory of John Beswick born Nov MDCCCXIX died Feb MDCCCLXI also Tho. Beswick born Apr MDCCCXXV died Nov MDCCCLXXIV.
This window was erected by their sister Hannah Beswick."



It is likely that John and Thomas were born in France, the same as their brother Andrew, and their sisters Mary Ann, Matilda, and Hannah; all are the children of Sarah whose details are on the page opposite.

John Beswick was born in November 1819.
He was one of the first pioneers in the Mount Gambier district of Australia and lived there for a number of years. On his return to England John did not enjoy good health. He had been planning to travel through Egypt and the Holy Land but he died on 3 February 1861, on the island of Jersey, from inflammation of the lungs. John Beswich, age 43 years, the son of John of Sandbed was buried on 10 February 1861 at St George's, Mossley.

Thomas Beswick was born in April 1825.
The 1841 Census shows the Beswick family living at Sandbed, in Mossley:
Sarah Beswick, 40,
Andrew Beswick, 20, Cotton Spinner
Mary Beswick, 15,
Thomas Beswick, 14
Matilda Beswick, 12
Hannah Beswick, 10

Thomas Beswick was 50 years old and had been living at Mount Gambier on Stamford Road in Mossley, when he died on 11 November 1875, in London. Thomas was buried on 17 November 1875, at St George's.





The South Wall of the Church—the Allen Andrew, Mary Ann Andrew, and Alice Andrew windows — Noah built an altar and offered the Lord burnt offerings

The inscription on this window reads:
"And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings on the altar. This window is affectionately dedicated to the honour of God's house. In memory of Allen Andrew died Sept 21st 1856 aged 52 years and of Mary Ann wife of the above died May 3rd 1872 aged 72 years. Also Alice their daughter died May 12th 1878 aged 40 years. This window is presented by their only surviving daughter K Walmsley Andrew 1883." There was no headstone for Allen, Mary Ann and Alice in 1974.



Allen Andrew was baptised at St George's in 1805. Allen Andrew's grandfather was Eli / Ely Andrew who is commemorated by a wall plaque at St George's.

Allen Andrew married Mary Ann Andrew in 1834, at St John's Church, Manchester. Mary Ann was the daughter of Doctor Andrew, Doctor being the brother of Eli / Ely Andrew.

Allen Andrew and his wife Mary Ann were first cousins once removed.

The 1851 Census shows Allen Andrew farming 12 acres in Audenshaw. Allen Andrew died in Audenshaw in 1856.

Mary Ann Andrew became the proprietor of a cottage or of cottages, and the 1871 Census show her living with her two daughters, Alice and Kitty Walmsley, on Stockport Road in Ashton.

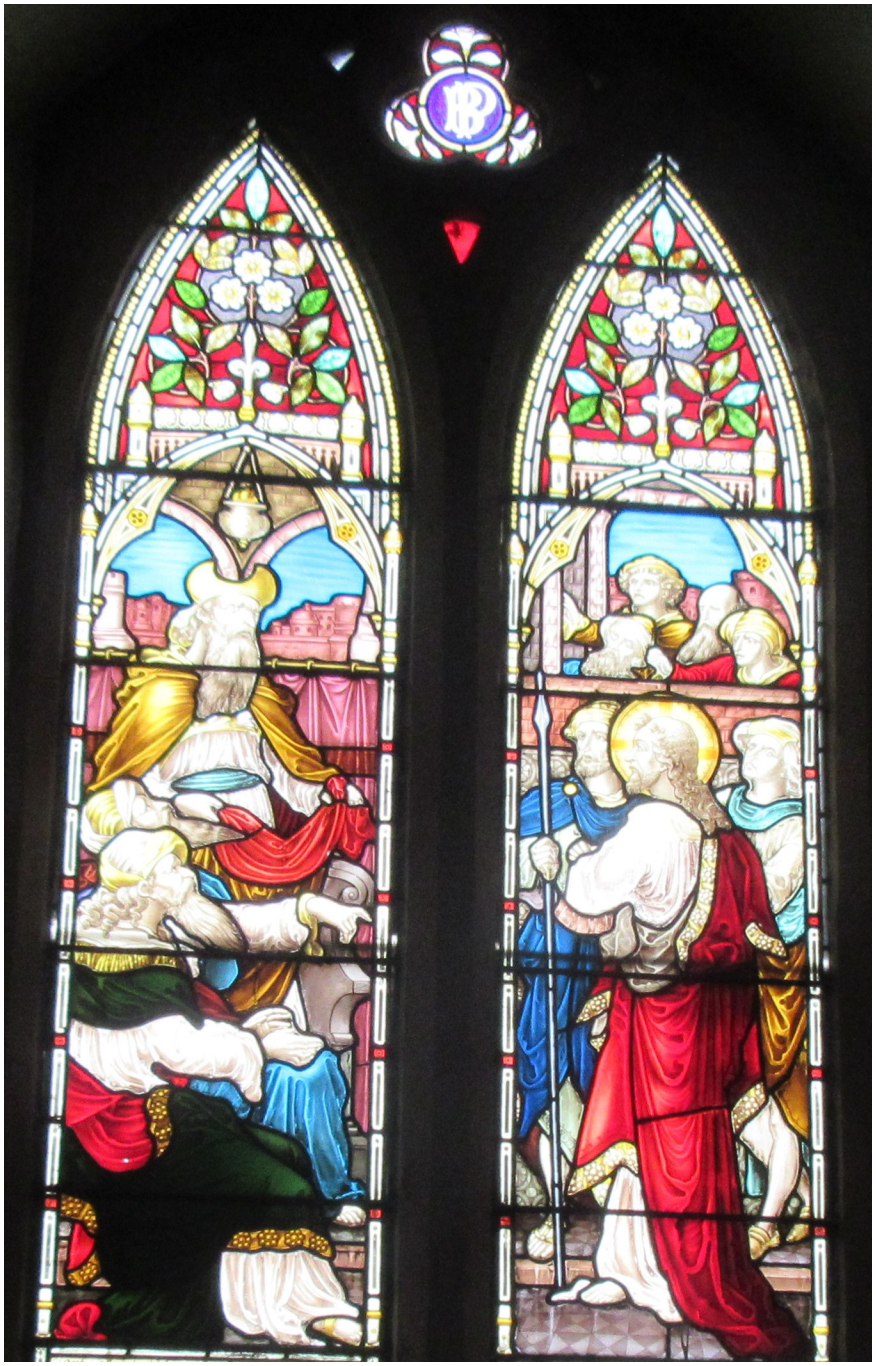
Mary Ann died in 1875 (not 1872 on the window), and Alice died in 1878.

The 1881 Census shows the only surviving daughter, Kitty Walmsley, an annuitant, living at the home of her first cousin, Andrew Beswick, at Mount Gambier, in Mossley. In 1883 Kitty Walmsley presented this stained glass window to St George's Church and dedicated it to the memory of both of her parents and of her sister.





The South Wall of the Church—the Mary Ann Pemberton windows
—the Trial of Our Saviour, from St Matthew's Gospel



The inscription on this window reads:
"But Jesus held his peace and the high priest answered and said unto him I adjure thee by the living God that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ the Son of God.
To the glory of God and in memory of Mary Anne Beswick wife of James Pemberton of Broughton Manchester born Feb MDCCCXXIV died July XXIX MDCCCLXXXIV erected by her sorrowing husband."

Mary Ann Beswick was born about 1824, in France, she was the daughter of Sarah and John Beswick. Mary Ann spent most of her young adulthood, over 20 years, living in Mossley.

In 1860 Mary Ann married James Pemberton, who was a warehouseman, at Christ Church in Salford. At the time Mary Ann was 36 years old.
Mary Ann and James lived in Salford.

Mary Ann died age 61 years, in 1884. Mary Ann Pemberton was buried with her mother at St George's, Mossley. When James died in 1906 he was buried with Mary Ann. The family headstone was removed in the 1974.

At St George's, on stained glass windows, are dedications to Mary Ann's mother Sarah Beswick, and her siblings Andrew Beswick, Thomas Beswick, John Beswick, Matilda Kershaw. Mary Ann's sister, Hannah Beswick, has a wall plaque, on the south wall of St George's, near to the font.



At the base of the Mary Ann Pemberton windows are the coats of arms and mottos of the Beswick and Pemberton families. The works were executed by Messrs Edmundson and son of Manchester.

Left: The South Wall of the Kitchen Area—Marvel Not That I Said Unto Thee He Must Be Born Again
R: The West Wall of the Kitchen Area— Suffer Little Children and Forbid Them Not To Come Unto Me





These windows are located on either side of the Andrew Beswick window shown opposite.
The three windows were executed by Messrs R B Edmundson and Son, of Manchester, 1899.
The subjects depicted in the three windows reflects their location, then around the stone baptismal font.

The West Wall of the Kitchen area—Christ the Son of God—the Andrew Beswick windows



The inscription on this window reads:
"Thou art my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. To the glory of God and in memory of the late Andrew Beswick JP of Mount Gambier Mossley who died Feb 20th 1898 in his 78th year. This window and the two adjacent windows are erected by his sole surviving sister Miss Hannah Beswick March 1899."

Andrew Beswick was born in France in 1820, he was the son of Sarah and John Beswick.
The 1841 and 1851 Census show him living with his family at Sandbed in Mossley.

Andrew Beswick purchased land from the Australian Government, and became a sheep farmer. In 1862 he became one of the first District Councillors for Mount Gambier in Southern Australia. After he sold his splendid farm of 350 acres he sailed from Adelaide on 10 January 1870 aboard the *Yalta*. He then returned to his family in Mossley and became a Justice of the Peace. Later Beswick Street in Mossley was named after him.

The 1881 and 1891 Census show him living at his house on Stamford Road in Mossley, that he named Mount Gambier.
In 1882 Andrew Beswick, a gentleman, was elected to the Ashton-under-Lyne Board of Guardians, who were the administrators of the Poor Law.
In 1885 the very first municipal elections for the newly incorporated Borough of Mossley took place. Standing for the Lancashire ward for the Conservative party were Andrew Beswick and John Heys, both gentleman. Standing for the Liberals were John Mayall, cotton spinner, and John Ogden, grocer. The count took place at the Mechanics' Hall. John Ogden was not elected, the others were.



When Andrew Beswick JP died in 1898 he left £15,386
he was buried at St George's. The stained glass windows in the kitchen area at St George's were erected by his sister Hannah Beswick in 1899. The family headstone which named Andrew Beswick, Hannah Beswick, and their sister Matilda Kershaw, was removed in 1974.

How Those Named on the St George's Church Wall Plaques and Stained Glass Windows are Related

The Andrew / Beswick Family Tree

Enoch Andrew = Mary Mellor
(1709—1771) (1713—1794)

Doctor Andrew = Alice Andrew
(1759—1824) (1762—1835)

Sarah Andrew = John **Beswick**
(1798—1875) (1774—1838)
Stained Glass Window

Below are
Children of Sarah and John Beswick:

John Beswick (1819—1861)
Thomas Beswick (1825—1875)
Stained Glass Window

Andrew Beswick (1820—1898) *
Stained Glass Window

Mary Ann Pemberton (1823—1884)
Stained Glass Window

Matilda Kershaw (1828—1889) *
Stained Glass Window

Hannah Beswick (1831—1904) *
Wall Plaque

Eli / Ely Andrew = Esther Worthington
(1752—1835) (1755—1823)
Wall Plaque

James Andrew = Kitty Andrew
(1780—1863) (1782—1833)

Allen Andrew = **Mary Ann Andrew**
(1805—1856) (1803—1875)
Stained Glass Window

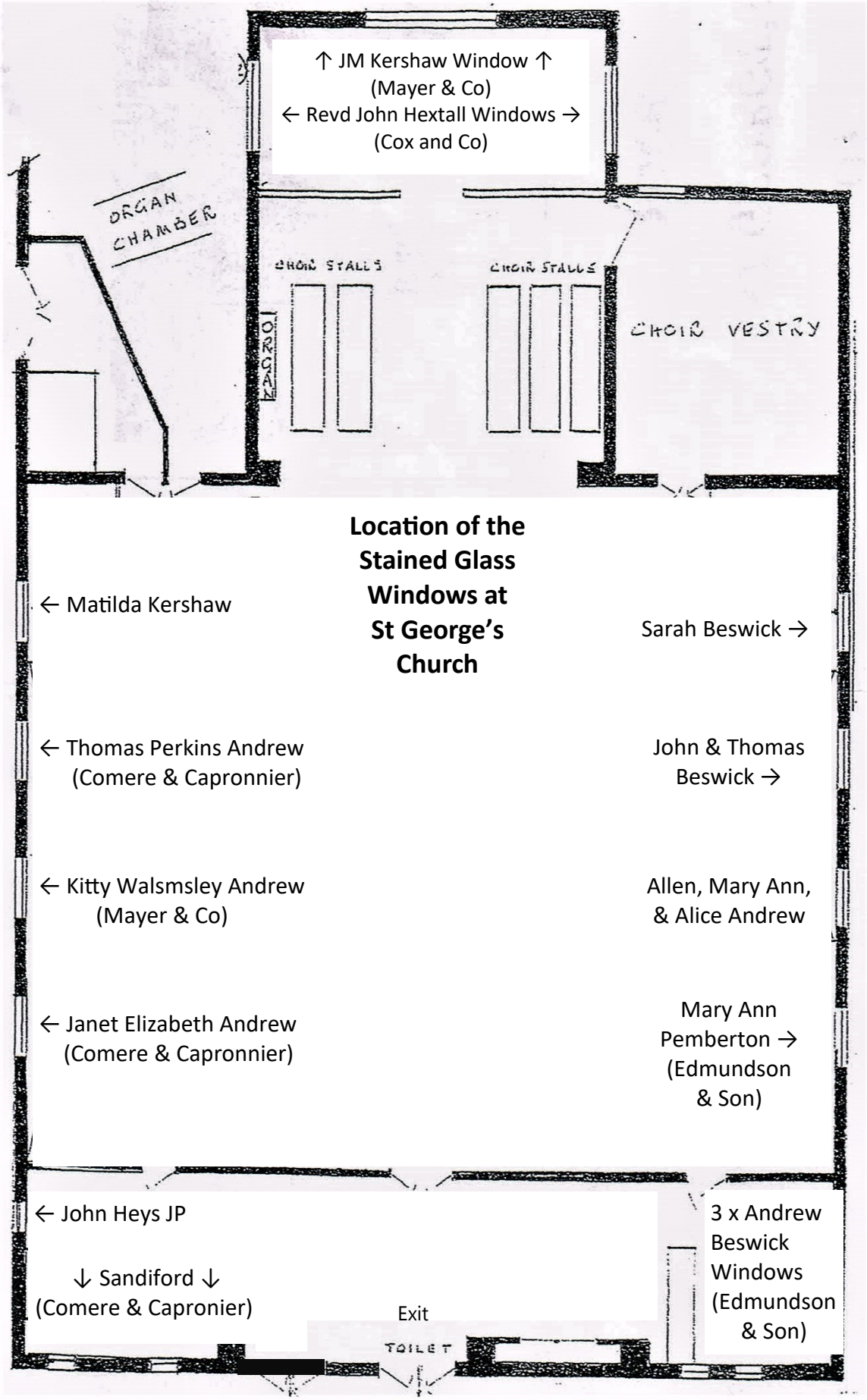
Mary Ann was the daughter of Doctor.
Allen and Mary Ann were
First Cousins Once Removed.

Below are
Children of Allen and Mary Ann Andrew:

Kitty Walmsley Andrew (1835—1886 *
Stained Glass Window

Alice Andrew (1838—1878)
Stained Glass Window

Living on Stamford Road in 1881 *	
Census 1881 Stamford Road, Mossley **James Lawton Andrew**, 41, GP, *Wall Plaque* Mary Anne Andrew, 48, Kate Andrew, 12, **Janet Elizabeth Andrew**,11, *Stained Glass Window* **Thomas Perkins Andrew**, 8, *Stained Glass Window*	**Census 1881** Mount Gambier, 25 Stamford Road, Mossley **Andrew Beswick** *SGW*, 58, Retired Sheep Farmer, born France **Matilda Kershaw** *SGW*, 40, Annuitant, born France **Hannah Beswick** *WP*, 48, Annuitant, born France Hannah Ingram, 18, General Servant **Census 1881** Mount Gambier, Stamford Road, Mossley *in a separate household at the same property are* **Kate (Kitty) Walmsley Andrew** *SGW*, 35, Annuitant Mary Colley, 16, Housemaid



In the Vestibule—Edward Alfred Dennis Pilkington—(Wm Morris of Westminster)
In the Disabled Toilet—the Oldest Window—(from the first St George's Chapel)
On the Staircase—the Mary Jane Barlow window (from St Augustine's)
Above the West Balcony—Revd Anthony Hall (St George, Rose, and Light of The World)
There is a round stained glass window in each of the rooms on the sides of the balcony.

The Built Elements of St George's Church

The Tower, The Clock, The Bells

The Tower

The present St George's Church was completed in 1882 and the tower 5 years later, in 1887. The architect for the tower was Mr James Mills, and the builder's were Messrs Wm Storrs & Son. The total cost was £802. The tower was originally topped by a weather vane and a flagpole. Unfortunately the flags constantly entwined themselves around the weather vane and so the weather vane was transferred to the school roof. The tower is 18 feet by 18 feet square, and is over 90 feet in height.

Below: **The Entrance to St George's Belfry**



In 1951 necessary repairs to the Church Tower were estimated to be £400. The Bell Ringer's organised "A Mile of Pennies", 30,000 were laid, and this raised £125.

Mr Ralph Taylor was Tower Master for over 65 years, when he died in 1954 Mr H Jackson, JP, succeeded.

The Clock

The Reporter Saturday 19 March 1887:
"Mrs Kershaw and Miss Beswick, of Mount Gambier, sisters of Councillor Beswick, have commissioned Messrs W Potts and Sons of Leeds, to manufacture a public clock for the tower at St George's, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The clock to have three large-sized cast iron dials, to face west, north, and east. The clock will have raised figures and minutes, sunk centres and copper hands. It will be fitted with Lord Grimthorpe's gravity escapement and compensation pendulum."

To the south stood the main church building and so a south facing dial would not have been seen.
The clock was set in motion on 21 June 1887, and became electrified in 1945 at a cost of £200. The clock used to chime on the quarter hour.

13 September 1958 as a way of raising some monies towards the £150 cost to having the St George's clock overhauled, and the fingers and figures repainted with gold leaf, the Bell Ringers of St George's sold copies of a dialect poem entitled "Bell Ringers Day" for 3d, written by D S Smith of Darwen.

"An' as Parish Clock wants mendin', They'r prepared to mek a bid,
To try to raise a minimum, Of a hundred and fifty quid."

Another fund raising effort on the same day was "A Mile of Pennies", all round the outside and all around the inside of the church, this alone raised £166 15s. Refreshments were on sale during the day, and at night there was a whist drive.

Tameside MBC took over maintenance of the clock until about 2010 but when they withdrew the church could not afford to maintain it. 2020: Today the clock faces are in a very sorry state and the clock is not currently in action.

The Bell From The Old St George's Chapel



On the west face of the remains of the first St George's Chapel is the John Whitworth memorial, and on the east face is the original circular stone surround to the old Chapel Clock, encircling an inscription that gives details of the old Chapel.

The Old St George's Chapel had one bell, made by G Dalton of York. The purchase price of this bell was £15 13s 10d.

"G
Dalton
York"

is on a medallion shape, and occurs twice on the bell. There is a beautiful ornamental border below the collar with the date 1756.

The bell is twenty and a half inches in diameter.

When the old Chapel was pulled down the old bell was hung in a turret over the boys entrance to the school and was used as a "school" bell.
In 1911 it was rehung into St George's Church tower, along with the eight bells especially commissioned in 1888 for St George's Church.
In 1915 the Dalton's bell was used as a priest's bell, and was rung daily at twelve o'clock noon.

Repairs to the Bells

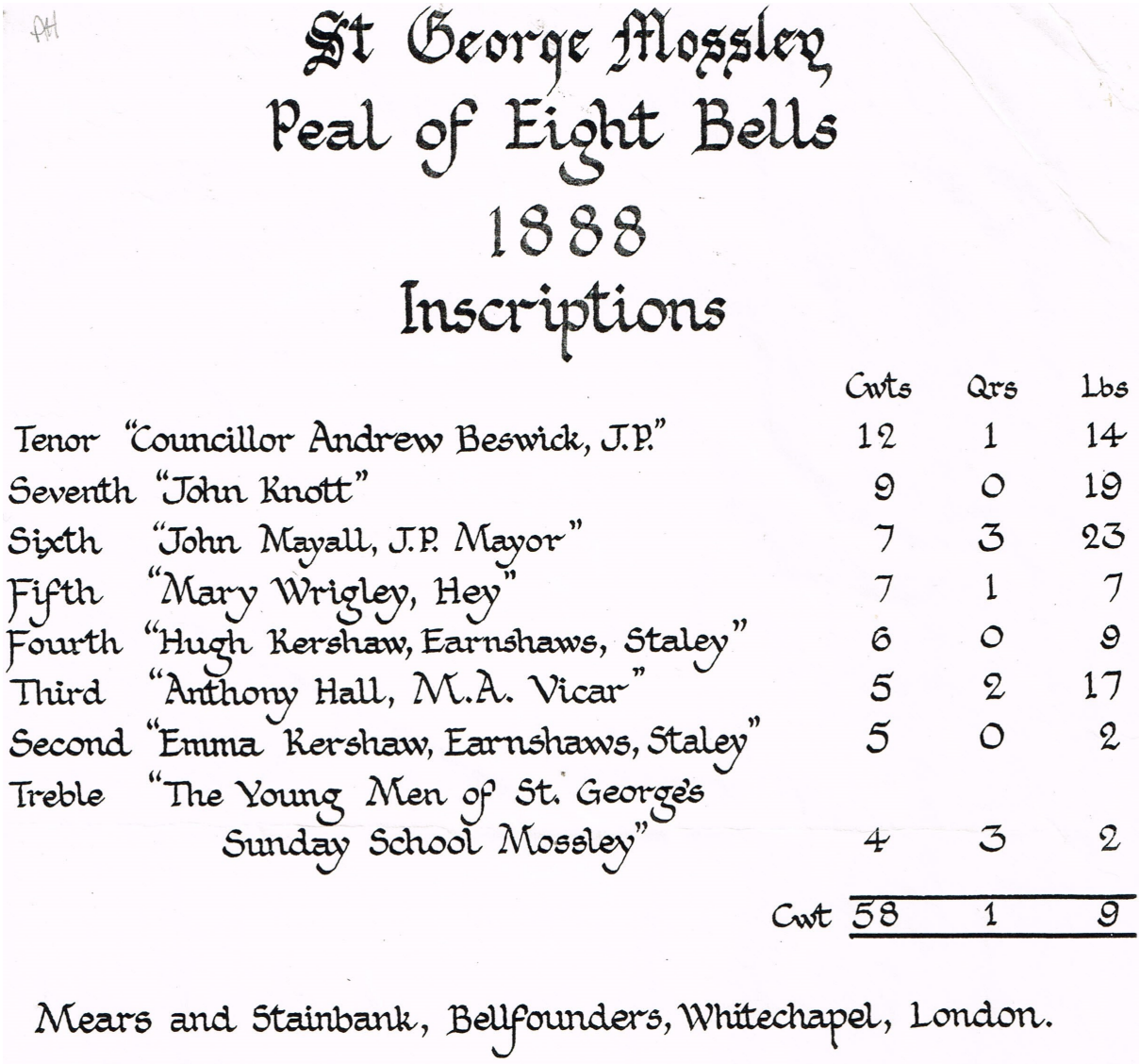
In 1927 the bells at St George's were found to be in a dangerous condition, they were overhauled and rehung with new ropes and, for the first time, onto ball bearings, which must have made them easier to ring, all of this work was undertaken for £144 12s.

In 1945 the Dalton bell was considered to be unsafe and was taken down and placed in the west porch of the church.

In the 1980's the tower had to be closed whilst essential works were undertaken. £72,000 was raised to install a new bell-frame and to refurbish some of the bells.

In 1996 an estimate of £49,275 plus VAT was received from John Taylor Bellfounders for work required to the bells. In 1998 an estimate of £38,175 was given by Pembleton's Bellhangers and Engineers to keep the bells in a sound and ringable condition. Pembleton's were the selected specialist contractor, who completed the works by December 2000. The first ringing of the refurbished bells was on Sunday 17 December 2000. A Grant from English Heritage and Local Community Funds covered the cost of the repair works which included support steelwork for the bells and the strengthening of the upper part of the tower by the provision of a reinforced concrete ring beam, along with some high level roofs being re-slated.

The old Dalton Bell was included in the 2000 Restoration Project and was rehung once again in the church tower. The bell now hangs in the belfry above the others.



The Bells at St George's weigh just under 3 Tons

In October 1907 the St George's bell ringers went on strike for over 20 weeks. They believed that under the will of the late Miss Hannah Beswick they were entitled to £25 per annum renumeration, and they were only getting £16 from the church. The settlement arrived at was that the bell ringers would continue to get £16 pa, and in addition to this, once a year, the whole of one Sunday's collection would be given to the ringers. That year the bells rang out for Christmas Day.

In 1916 it was said that the sound of the bells may be of service to Zeppelin raiders. The were rung as usual for the Sunday Services, but did not ring for evensong, the restrictions being due to the war.

A special service was held in 1938 for the 50th Anniversary of the Hanging of the Bells.

Saddleworth Festival of the Arts—in both 1981 and in 1987 St George's Church was the Winner of the Call Change Bell Ringing Competition at the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts.

Saturday 15 September 2001 the Opening Peal was rung on the restored bells of St George's by members of The Ancient Society of College Youths. 5024 Changes of Cambridge Surprise Major in 2 Hours 58 Minutes. Conductor Peter C Randall. Composed by John S Warboys.

Sunday 16 September 2001 the bells of St George's were rung "Half Muffled" as a mark of respect to those killed and injured in the disastrous events which took place the previous Tuesday, 9/11, at the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York, America.

At the present time, 2020, there are no resident bell ringers at St George's Church.

The Bells

The bells were first rung at St George's new Church at Easter 1888 and a dedication service was held especially for the occasion. The bells have a very fine and sweet-toned peal. In September 1887 an appeal had been made for funds, with the result that the eight bells were given by the donors shown on the opposite page. At 6.00 pm on the Saturday the dedication service was held and the well known hymn "Now At Last Our Bells Are Mounted" was sung by the choir, ringers, and congregation. Immediately afterwards the bells rang for the first time. On Easter Sunday, 1 April 1888, in just three hours and one minute, at the church of St George, the Mossley Opening Peal, a peal of Treble Bob Major 5,088 changes in the Kent variation was rung. Composed by James Platt of Saddleworth. Conducted by John Holden. Eight members of the Saddleworth Society rang the bells on this day, and undertook to ring them for a further 12 months, allowing enough time for the Mossley bell ringers to be trained.

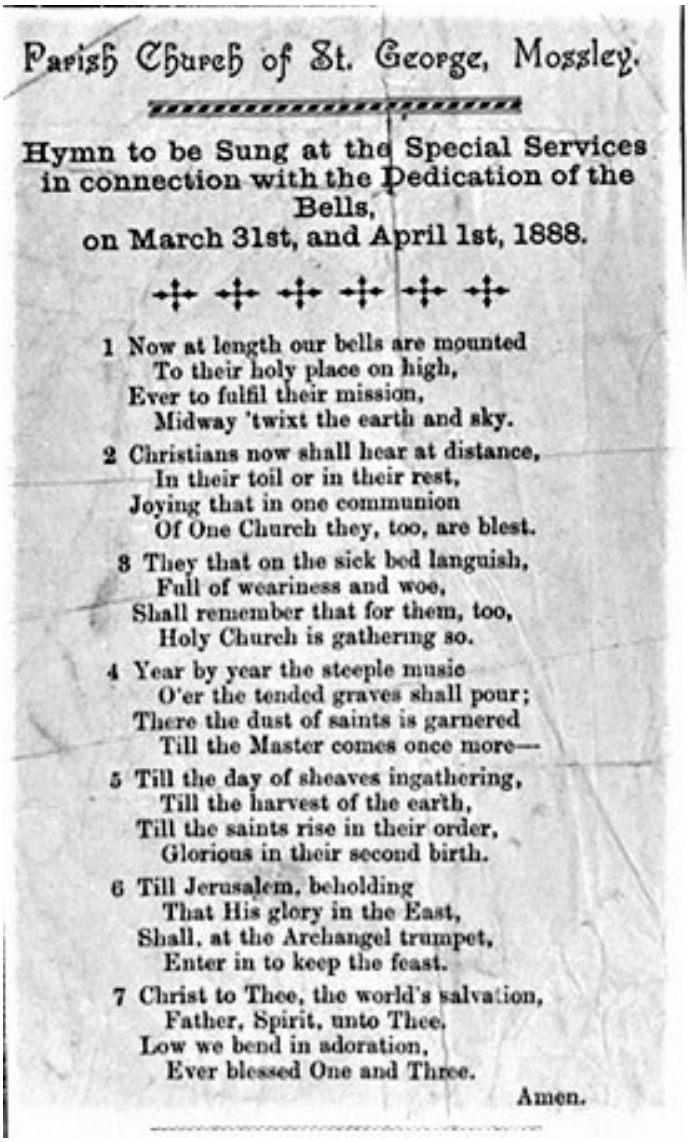
Treble John J Brierley	2nd John Holden	3rd Frank Brierley	4th Joseph Wood
5th John T Holden	6th Moses Bradley	7th Thomas B Dicken	Tenor ($F^{\#}$) Edward Wood

On Easter Sunday 1888 the preachers were: morning, Revd A Hall MA, Vicar of St George's; afternoon Revd T Butterworth MA Vicar of Hurst; evening Revd Canon Eagar MA, Rector and Rural Dean of Ashton-under-Lyne. On Easter Monday companies of ringer's from Huddersfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Worsley, etc visited Mossley and rang many peals throughout the day. At 2.00 pm a dinner was provided at the Bull's Head, at which 166 ringers sat down. The total cost for supplying the bells, ringing fittings, oak framework, erecting and hanging the bells, and carriage and transportation was £515 15s 3d.

A resident of Anthony Street once complained about the bells ringing for 3 hours. An apology was sent and a promise to only ring on practice night and occasions.



L.A.C.R.—Lancashire Association of Change Ringers



Parish Church of St. George, Mossley.

Hymn to be Sung at the Special Services in connection with the Dedication of the Bells, on March 31st, and April 1st, 1888.

1 Now at length our bells are mounted
To their holy place on high,
Ever to fulfil their mission,
Midway 'twixt the earth and sky.

2 Christians now shall hear at distance,
In their toil or in their rest,
Joying that in one communion
Of One Church they, too, are blest.

3 They that on the sick bed languish,
Full of weariness and woe,
Shall remember that for them, too,
Holy Church is gathering so.

4 Year by year the steeple music
O'er the tended graves shall pour;
There the dust of saints is garnered
Till the Master comes once more—

5 Till the day of sheaves ingathering,
Till the harvest of the earth,
Till the saints rise in their order,
Glorious in their second birth.

6 Till Jerusalem, beholding
That His glory in the East,
Shall, at the Archangel trumpet,
Enter in to keep the feast.

7 Christ to Thee, the world's salvation,
Father, Spirit, unto Thee,
Low we bend in adoration,
Ever blessed One and Three.

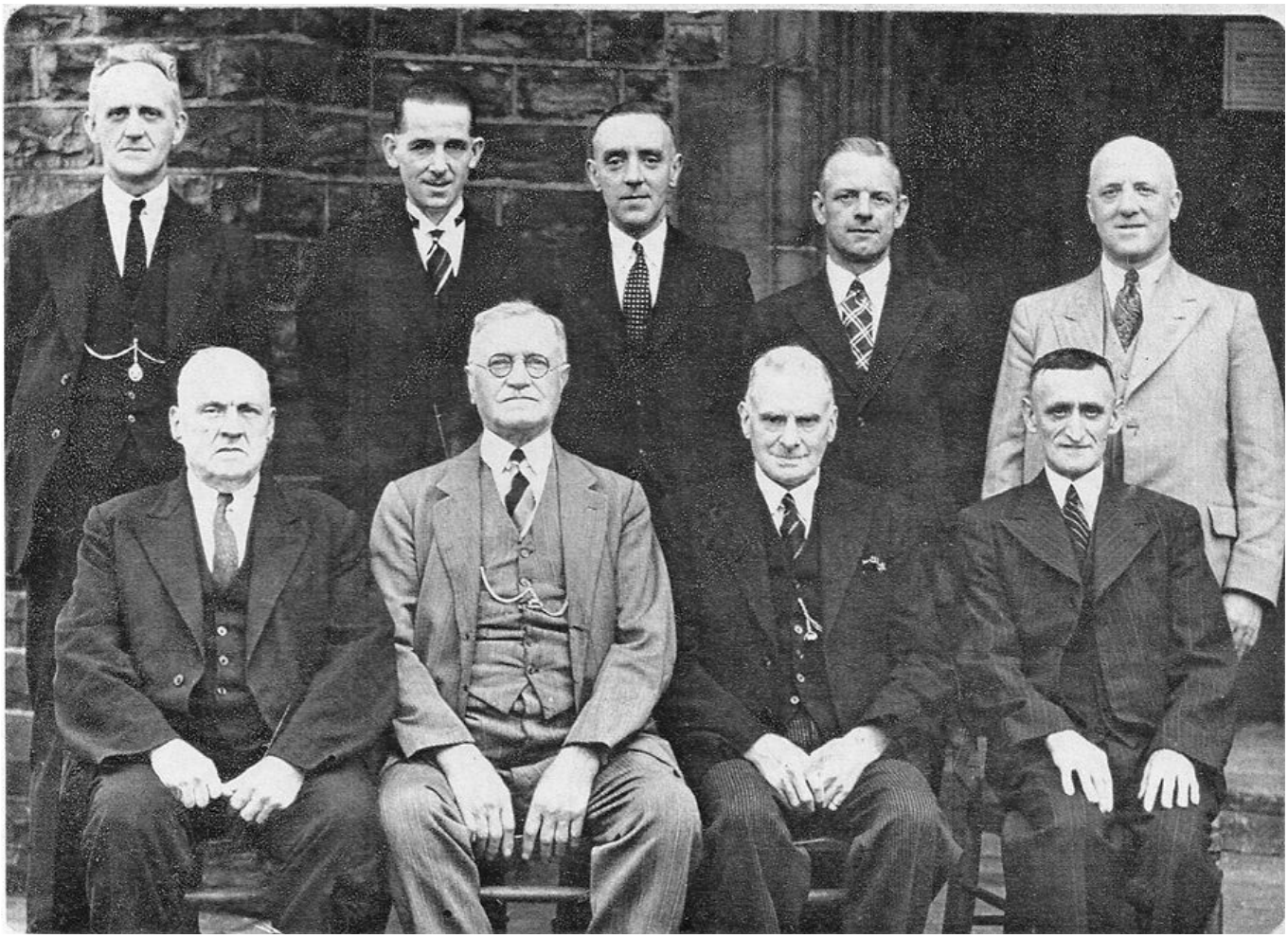
Amen.

Rules and Regulations for St George's Church Bell Ringers

1. The Ringers to be in the Tower at 10 am and 6 pm or be fined 2d each time late.
2. Any Ringer failing to attend either Morning or Evening to be fined 6d each time.
3. That after Ringing for Service an effort to be made to attend such Service.
4. One night per week all Ringers meet for practice. Any paid ringer failing to attend to be fined 2d.
5. That any Ringer failing to attend on Sundays or Practice Night through Sickness, not to be fined.
6. That no one be recognised as a Service Ringer, or be paid for ringing until he can ring a Half Peal of Minor or a Plain Course of Major.
7. That no Smoking or Bad Language take place in the Tower.
8. That "Strict attention to good Ringing" always be the Motto.

Signed THE COMMITTEE E Garside Secretary

June 1946 St George's Bellringers Commemorate 300 Years Service



Top Row, then Bottom Row, left to right:

John Clayton	39 years	
Ralph Walker	16 years	
Harry Pickles	16 years	*
John Radcliffe	16 years	*
Ernest Garside	35 years	*
Frank Welham	40 years	
Ralph Taylor	56 years	(Conductor)
Harold Jackson JP	44 years	
Harold Taylor	38 years	
EXACT TOTAL	300 YEARS	

* *Please turn the next page for their 1958 photograph !!!*

8 August 1985—
Letter From Clarence House

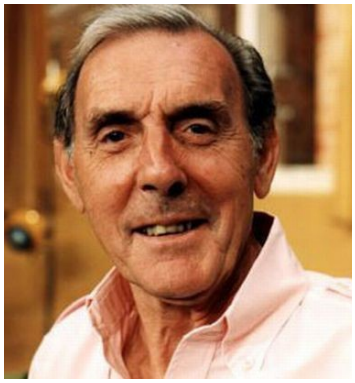
The Lady-in-Waiting for Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, wrote to the bellringers of St George's to say Thank You for the good wishes they had conveyed to Her Majesty on the occasion of her 85th birthday. The Queen Mother was delighted to hear of the quarter peal rung on the St George's bells in her honour.





Above Right: No 5 Vernon Sykes from Oldham (father of Eric). No 7 Arthur Tomlinson from Blackburn. No 8 Joe Burgess from Friezland. Please turn the next page for more information about Mr Ralph Taylor.

10 June 1998—Letter From Eric Sykes



Eric Sykes, the well known and much loved British comedian, replied to a letter sent by the Mossley bellringers, and said that his father Vernon Sykes was a regular ringer at Oldham Parish Church (St Mary's) from about 1930, and to say that his Aunt Marie was the first lady bellringer in the whole country. Eric went on to say that the only publication the family could afford in those pre-war days was "The Ringing World" a magazine read from cover to cover by his dear old dad, God Bless Him. Eric also wrote that for many years the word "campanology" was the longest word in his vocabulary.

John Radcliffe (see plaque, below left) was born on 28 February 1903, he married Edith Corscadden in 1934 at St George's, and in 1939 they lived at 19 Anthony Street, Mossley. John, of 41 Curzon Street, Mossley, died on 16 July 1990. He was a Bellringer and the Towermaster at St George's.
To the left is a photograph of John taken in 1946.

1988—St George's Church Handbell Ringers were a very good team (photo of the handbells below right)





Some of the Peals Rung at St George's

Tuesday 20 March 1928 in 3 Hours 6 Minutes
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5088 Changes**
Composed by J Thorpe. Conducted by R Taylor, ringer of the first bell

Saturday 27 October 1928 in Three Hours
A Peal of Grandshire Triples **5040 Changes**
Composed by J J Parker. Conducted by Walter W Wolstencroft, ringer of the seventh bell
The First peal of Grandsire rung in Mossley

Friday 28 November 1930 in 3 Hours 1 Minute
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5088 Changes**
Composed by T B Worsley. Conducted by W W Wolstencroft, ringer of the eighth bell
Rung as a 79th birthday compliment to the ringer of the seventh bell, Mr John Harrison

Saturday 12 April 1930 in 3 Hours 8 Minutes
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5088 Changes**
Composed by T B Worsley. Conducted by W W Wolstencroft, ringer of the eighth bell

Saturday 7 March 1931 in 3 Hours 15 Minutes
A peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5088 Changes**
Composed by T B Worsley. Conducted by Ralph Taylor, ringer of the first bell

Saturday 24 October 1931 in 3 Hours 12 Minutes
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5184 Changes**
Composed by J Platt. Conducted by W W Wolstencroft, ringer of the eighth bell
Rung as a farewell peal to the Rev D J Jones who was leaving the parish for St Paul's, Withington.
All service ringers except conductor.

Saturday 7 January 1933 in 2 Hours 55 Minutes
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5024 Changes**
Composed by A Knights. Conducted by W W Wolstencroft, ringer of the eighth bell
Rung in celebration of the jubilee of the consecration of the Church,
and as a birthday compliment to Mr John H Nield

Wednesday 2 August 1933 in 3 Hours 12 Minutes
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5280 Changes**
Composed by W Sottenstall. Conducted by Ralph Taylor, ringer of the first bell

Sunday 2 June 1935 in 3 Hours 1 Minute
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5280 Changes**
Composed by W Sottenstall. Conducted by Ralph Taylor, ringer of the first bell
First local peal for upwards of twenty five years rung as a jubilee peal for the Borough

Monday 18 December 1933 in 2 Hours 53 Minutes
At the Church of St Chad. A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major **5088 Changes**
Composed by J H Platt. Conducted by Fred Dunkerley, ringer of the first bell, First peal as conductor in the method. *Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr John Harrison and Mr Walter W Wolstencroft both of Ashton-under-Lyne.*

Walter Wallace Wolstencroft was born on 17 December 1874, he married Ada Hall in 1898 at St Peter's in Ashton. In 1939 they were living at 103 Victoria Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne. Ada died in Eton, in 1953, age 81 years. Walter died in Surrey, in 1957, age 82 years. Travelling from Ashton to Mossley to ring the bells was no distance for Walter. Being a very good bell ringer he was in demand, in 1931 he rang at Sheffield Cathedral, and in 1937 he was part of a "World Championship" team at St Peter's in Buxton.

Mr Ralph Taylor

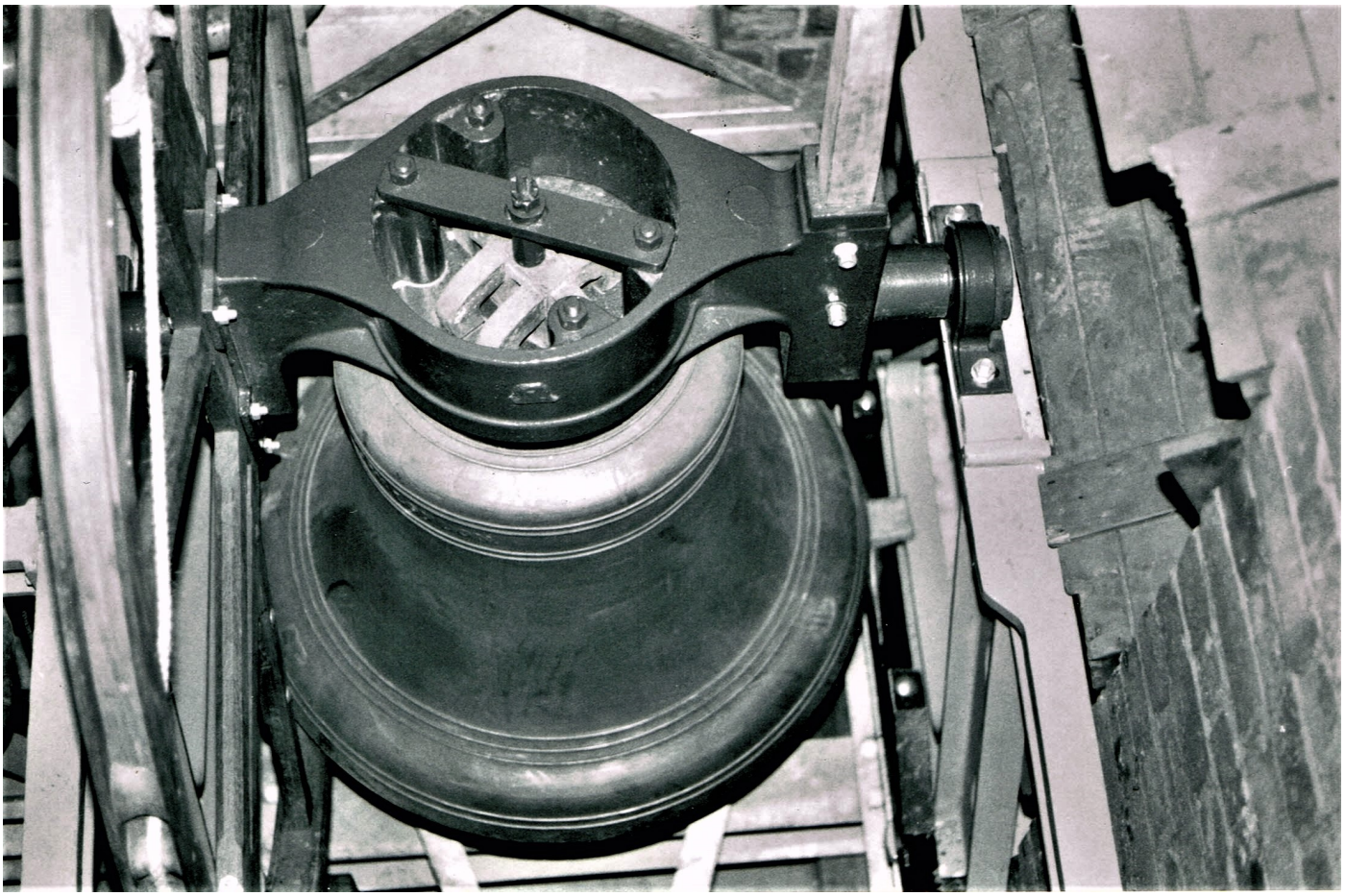
Ralph Taylor was born on 13 November 1873, he married Molly Bentley in 1901, at St George's. In 1939 they lived at 43 Lorne Street, Mossley. Ralph Taylor was a bell-ringer at St George's for over 65 years, and during that time rang over five million changes, and he rang at four Coronations. For his 76th birthday, in 1949, at St George's, Ralph Taylor conducted a 600-change greeting for himself. In 1951, for his Golden Wedding, a 5088 change was rung. One of the ringers on this day was Vernon Sykes, father of the well-known and much loved British Comedian Eric Sykes. Ralph died in 1954 age 80. He is buried with his wife, who died in 1953 age 79. Their headstone survives, in the 1938 Ground at St George's.

The Wedding of Miss Joyce Haynes to Mr Geoffrey Smethurst
1 March 1958

Joyce had been one of St George's bellringers. The bellringers from left to right:
Keith Slater,
Jennifer Nield,
Norman Mills,
Frank Walker,
Harry Pickles,
John Radcliffe,
Ernest Garside,
Rev John Bickley.



Below: Photo by Alan Bishop. The bells were rehung by Pembleton's Bellhangers of Derbyshire in 2000.



The Built Elements of St George's Church

Alabaster Reredos

A reredos is literally a decorative screen at the back of an Altar. The reredos at St George's is made of white alabaster, and is 14 feet long and 9 feet high, and represents the Lord's Supper, and also has flanking figures of Mary and the Angel Gabriel. This work was executed by Messrs Earp, Son and Hobbs of London and Manchester, under the direction of A H Davies-Colley ARIBA, the original architect of the church. The reredos was donated by James Holden in 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, along with the beautiful east window. The church was closed for a short time in 1887 whilst the reredos was added. You will notice that all the figures featured in the reredos look towards Christ, except for one figure on the right hand side, this is thought to be a representation of Judas.



The Altar

In 1984 Father Lindsay Introduced the use of Eucharistic Vestments. The green altar frontal and a matching set of three vestments was donated to St George's by Mr and Mrs Briggs, of Grasscroft. Mr Briggs had been a bank manager. An Aumbry was fitted in the Mother's Union Chapel in which to place the Reserved Sacrament for the housebound.

The Eagle Lectern

Inscribed: "This Lectern is Dedicated to the Glory of God and is Presented by James and Mary Ann Pemberton on the Consecration of this Church."

Mary Ann Beswick was born in France, she was the daughter of Sarah and John Beswick, and spent most of her young adulthood, over 20 years, living in Mossley. In 1860 Mary Ann, age 36, married James Pemberton, a warehouseman, at Christ Church in Salford. They lived in Salford for the rest of their lives but retained a connection with St George's, members of the Beswick family subscribed the font and the clock, and several of the stained glass windows. James and Mary Ann presented the Eagle Lectern. When Mary Ann Pemberton died James erected a stained glass window at St George's in her memory. James and Mary Ann are buried together at St George's, no headstone or monument for them survives.

The Built Elements of St George's Church

Pulpit and Wrought Iron Staircase

The Pulpit inside St George's Church has a brass plaque attached to its base that reads: "To The Glory of God and In Memory of Sarah Anne Holden Who Died July 1st 1894 The Beloved Sister of James Holden of High Birch Marland By Who This Pulpit Is Erected 1896."

The Pulpit was the last gift donated by James Holden to St George's. High Birch, in Marland, Rochdale, a fine house in one of the prettiest spots in the district, was built about 1870.

Sarah Anne was 53 years old when she died in 1894. Her brother James Holden was 66 years old when he suffered a stroke and then died on 23 April 1896. Both had been born in Rochdale and had lived in Rochdale all of their lives. James' father used Marland Mill as a corn mill, but it was converted into a cotton spinning concern. James joined his father in the business, and then retired in the 1860's, the possessor of a large fortune. For some years he was a member of the Castleton Local Board. James left £119,000, most of which went to charitable causes, including £500 to St George's Church for the repair and insurance of the east window and reredos, and to general repairs of the church, and to keeping in good order the tombs of his Kershaw ancestors buried in St George's churchyard. £2,000 was bequeathed to the Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary. Sarah Anne was buried on 5 July 1894 and James was buried on 27 April 1896. They are buried, like their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, at St George's, Mossley. Maternal grandfather James Kershaw who died in 1820, and maternal great grandfather John Kershaw who died in 1801, were butchers in Mossley. This seems to be where some inherited wealth came from. The father of Sarah Anne and James, Joseph Holden who died in 1864, left £2,000. The family monument in St George's churchyard still stands today. If you look carefully around the top of the pulpit you will find intricate carvings of musicians, one playing a trumpet and one playing a violin, and you may be able to spot a cheeky fellow sticking his tongue out at you.



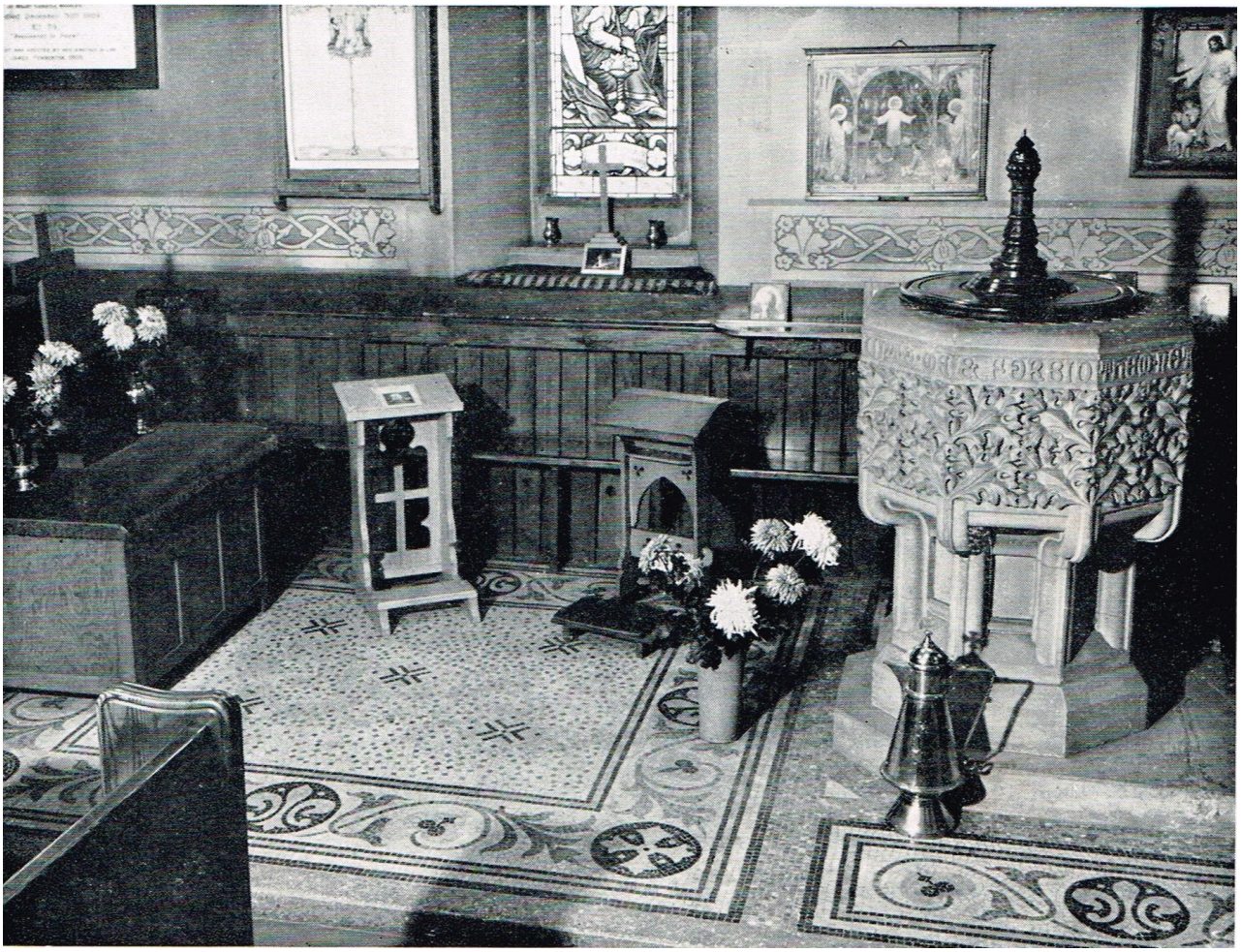




The Built Elements of St George's Church

The Font

The St George's font is constructed from stone, is in the gothic revival style, and has a wooden cover. The font is inscribed: "Suffer Little Children To Come Unto Me".
On the top of the wooden cover of the font is a large hook. A rope and pulley system would have originally been used to raise and lower the cover of the font to allow for baptisms to take place.
The font was the gift of Mrs Matilda Kershaw and her sister Miss Hannah Beswick.
In 1899 three stained glass windows were erected at the rear of the church, one on the south wall and two on the west wall, by Miss Hannah Beswick in memory of her brother Andrew Beswick J. P.
These stained glass windows would have originally overlooked the stone font, one bears the inscription: "Suffer Little Children and Forbid Them Not To Come Unto Me."
The Children's Corner, around the font, was first created in 1926 by Rev John Hands.
The 1962 photo, below, shows the Children's Corner, and the font in its original location.
In March 1980 the font was moved forward, towards the High Altar, and the church room was created by the PCC (Parochial Church Council).
When the church room was being created four rows of pews at the back of the church were removed. The timber of the old pews was used to construct the wood and glass screen which now divides the church room from the church itself. The cost of the work was covered by generous donations.
The font is today located on the south side at the rear of the church, and the kitchen area is the south end of the church room. The section of floor where the font used to stand can still be seen in the kitchen area today, and can be clearly identified by the mosaics shown in the photo below. The cost of these mosaics was borne by Mrs Hall, widow of Revd Anthony Hall, in 1907.
Below:
The Children's Corner in 1962: the stone font with its wooden cover in its original position, part of the 1907 wall decorations, two prayer desks, the Elizabeth Thomason brass jug, and the mosaic flooring.



Today a smaller, plain, ceramic font, from All Saints' Church Institute is used.

It is of a turquoise colour, is on a wooden stand, and usually stands to the right of the platform area.

Being lighter in weight than the original St George's Church font it is easily moved onto the platform for baptisms.

In 1998 the cost of repairs to the All Saints' Church building forced the parishioner's of All Saints' to decide to move, from their original church building, into their community building on Micklehurst Road, known as the Institute.

All Saints' Services continued at the Institute until dwindling numbers in the congregation forced the closure of that building as well. All Saint's held their last services in the Institute in 2014.

The All Saints' Church building has now been tastefully converted into three family homes.

St George's church is now the keeper of a number of All Saint's items: their font, altar, chair, and some processional banners.

Most of these items are located near to the original St George's font.



The small and ornate All Saints' World War One War Memorial is now located at All Saints' School. Please ring the school beforehand should you wish to view.



The Built Elements of St George's Church

Organ

In April 1888 a new organ was ordered from Messrs C Hardy of Stockport, the price, including carriage & fixing was to be £570. A dedication service was held on Thursday 20 September 1888, Bishop Moorhouse being the preacher. The organ was opened by Irvine Dearnaley, the organist at Ashton Parish Church.

Technical Description of the Organ
3 manuals (compass of 56 notes), 30 pedals (concave board)

Swell	Great	Choir	Pedal
Clarion 4'	Trumpet 8'	Clarinet 8'	Boundon 16'
Oboe 8'	15th 2'	Piccolo 2'	Violoncello 8'
Cornopean 4'	Principal 4'	Wald flute 4'	Open diapason 16'
Mixture III	Harmonic flute 4'	Gedact 8'	
Flageolet 2'	Clarabella 8'	Dulciana 8'	
Gemshorn 4'	Open diapason 8'	Gamba 8'	
Voix célestes 8'	Double open diapason 16'		
Salicional 8'			
Stopped diapason 8'			
Violin diapason 8'			
Double open diapason 16'			

Foot levers, couplers: Gt-Ped, 3 to GT, 3 to Swell, Sw-Ped, Sw-Gt, Sw-Ch, Ch-Ped
Swell pedals (2) (balanced centre): 1 to Swell, 1 to Choir (clarinet only)

Piano (C & J Eungblut)
In 1907 a piano and a harmonium were added to the building.
In 1907 the Organist Mr Harold Burgess resigned to commence duties at St Paul's in Stalybridge.
His organ recitals were greatly appreciated by the members of St George's congregation.

In 1917 restoration and repair work to the organ was completed, and for the first time in many years the whole of the organ could be played. Work was carried out on the roof to stop rain and snow causing further damage to the organ.

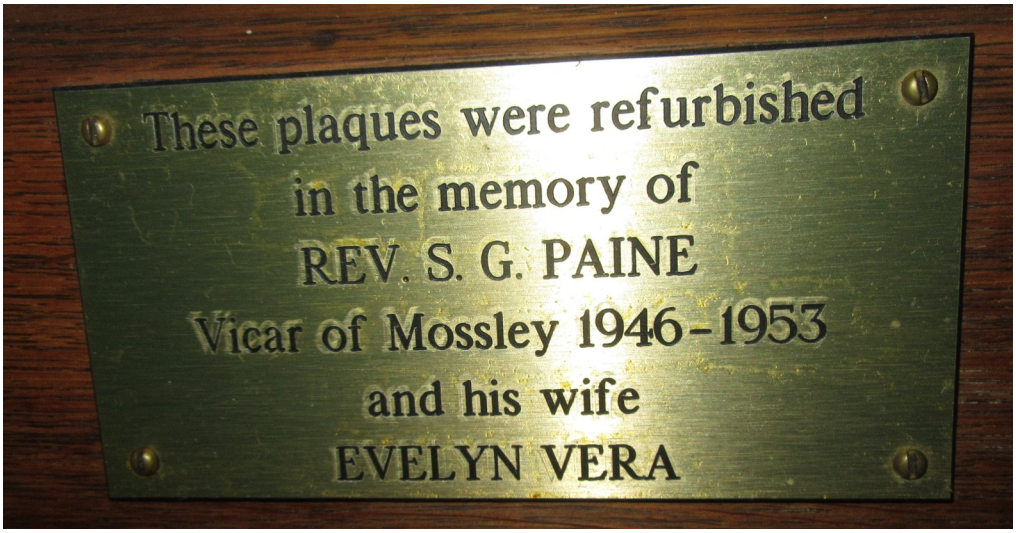
An electric pump for the bellows of the organ was fitted in 1919. Prior to this it was the duty of the official organ blower to work the bellows by hand. Mr John Schofield had held this position for 47 years. The vicar and wardens arranged to continue to pay his retainer, of £4 10s per annum, for as long as he lived.

In 1937 the organ was cleaned and thoroughly overhauled, and essential works to the motor were undertaken. The works took five weeks to complete and cost £170.

On 20 December 1944 Mr Arthur Kaye, age 84 years, died in Manchester Crumpsall Hospital, he was laid to rest at St George's. Arthur was the Organist at the Old Chapel, the first St George's, with Mr John Taylor as Choirmaster. Arthur Kaye was the son of Benjamin Kaye who was the Secretary of St George's Sunday School in 1881. Arthur was baptised at St George's on 10 March 1860. Arthur was a professor of music when he married Mary Elizabeth Merrell at St George's on 27 September 1888. The family headstone that named Arthur, his wife, and Arthur's parents was removed in 1974.
(please turn the next page to see further information about Mr John Taylor) (please see the 1881 St George's Sunday School poster near the beginning of this book for further info about Benjamin Kaye)

On the right-hand side of the organ is a brass plaque that reads:
“In Loving Memory of John Travis 1928—1995. Organist and Choirmaster of St George’s Mossley.”
John Travis was born on 19 October 1928, and the 1939 Register shows him living with his parents at 53 Stamford Road, Mossley. John Travis married Greta Kershaw in 1955 at Christ Church, Friezland, Greenfield. When John Travis died he had been living at 65 Curzon Street, Mossley. He is buried in the new extension in Mossley Cemetery. His headstone reads:
“In Loving Memory of a Beloved Husband and Dad John Travis.
Died 3 April 1995 Aged 66 Years.
Forever Loved and Never Forgotten.”
John Travis is the son of Joseph and Ellen Travis who presented the “First Steps” list of baptism’s that can be found on the south wall near the original stone font.

This Brass Plaque can be found on the left hand side of the reredos near the wooden panelling upon which The Lords Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed are written. The Plaque reads:
“These plaques were refurbished in the memory of Revd S G Paine Vicar of Mossley 1946—1953 and his wife Evelyn Vera.”



Below: **The Taylor Brothers**. On the horse Harold, bellringer, left Joseph, bellringer, right Percy, organist. This photograph was taken in the 1890’s.



Choir

1812 **Festival of Music**
On Christmas Day Evening in St George's Chapel, a Grand Selection of Sacred Music was held for the Benefit of the Singers, and included Hymns, the Messiah, with Drums, Trumpet, and Double Base. Tickets were available at the Bull's Head and the Golden Fleece. Cost of Admission: East Gallery 1s 6d, Side Gallery 1s, Bottom 6d. Words to the performance to be sold at the Chapel door at 1d each. Doors 5 o'clock, Begins 6 o'clock. The Chapel will be beautifully illuminated and sufficiently gleeded.

On 2 October 1853 The choir of St George's Chapel sang the **Anthems from the Oratorio of Dr Clarke** at the Sunday service held at the New Connection Chapel in Mossley.

Choir —9 January 1869—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser
Wanted, a Good Treble Singer for St George's, Mossley. Salary £12 per annum. Apply to Mr B Smith.

Wanted—22 January 1870—The Reporter
Wanted, an Alto, for the Choir of St George's Church, Mossley. Apply to E L Mayall, Warden.

1882 **Consecration of the new St George's**
Hymns sung on 23 November 1882 at the Consecration of the new St George's Church included "Abide With Me" and "All People That On Earth Do Dwell".

1887 **New Choir**
During the time of Revd Farthing there was only a mixed choir. Revd Hall introduced a surplice choir and made the service brighter an more attractive. 1887—For the proposed Surplice Choir about twenty choristers would be required, and the cost per surplice would be between 5/- and 9/- *(25p and 45p)*.

At one time in the surplice choir were four sets of father and son:
Messrs H and P Wadsworth, F and D Colley, G and H Towle, and J and P Andrew.

1909 **Service of Song**
On Sunday 24 October 1909 the Old Singers performed a Service of Song, the Collection on this day was to clear the debt on Church Funds.

1912 **Whit Friday The 155th Anniversary of the consecration of the old Chapel**.
Hymns sung at the consecration of the present church were sung to the old tunes. The church was crowded with at least 1,000 people present. Rain prevented the service being held on the site of the old Chapel.

1953 **Carol Recordings**
The very excellent St George's Church choir made two records. One of the records featured two carols, *Good King Wenceslas* and *The Holly and The Ivy*, and the other record featured two hymns, *O God Our Help In Ages Past* and *When Our Heads Are Bowed In Woe*. The records were put on sale in May 1954. The price was 10/- (10 shillings) (50p) for the carols, and 9/- (9 shillings) (45p) for the hymns. The organist and choirmaster at that time was Mr George M Wrigley.

Opposite: **St George's Choir** circa 1952/1953.
Image from Keith Slater's "Poems of Mossley". Keith Slater is sat on the 2nd Row, 4th from the Left.

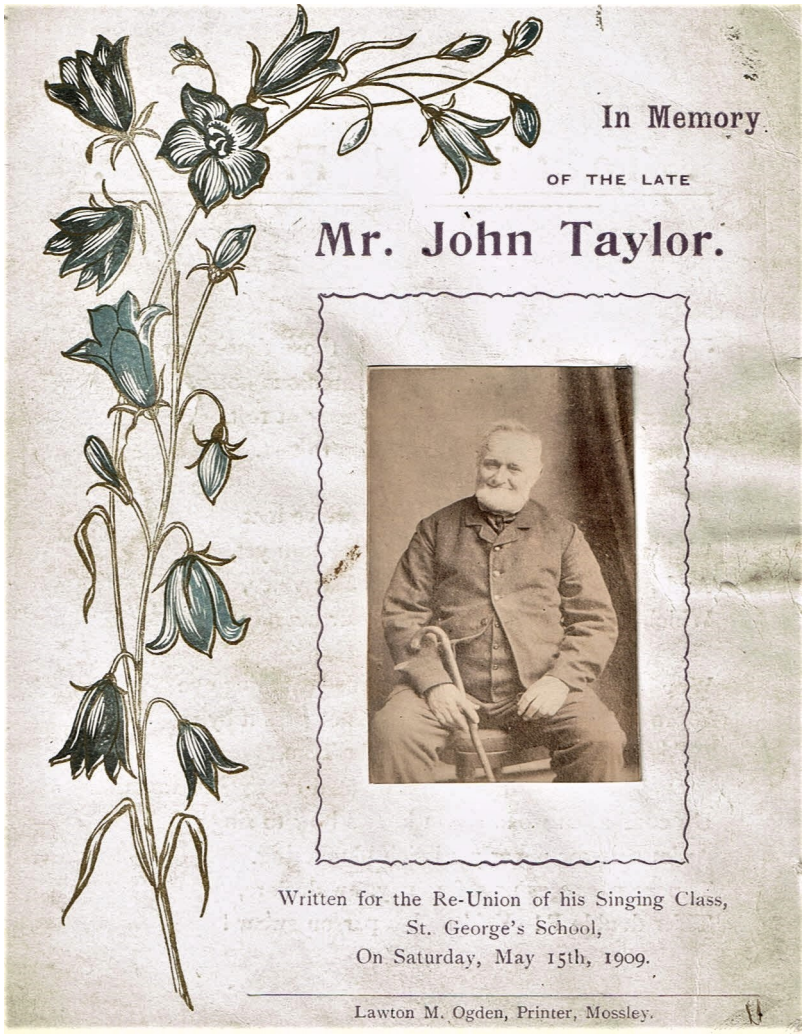
2020 **The Last Performance**
It is with deep regret that the choir at St George's performed for the last time on 26 January 2020, the numbers having dwindled down to four members. From March 2020 Covid 19 prohibited church singing.

Mr John Taylor

Remembering him, Now many years at rest,
Who put our earliest, Vocal powers to test

From "In Memory of the Late Mr John Taylor" by Alice Hirst.

Mr John Taylor trained choirs in many places: the Mechanics Institute, the Methodist New Connexion Church, and at St George's where he was also Sexton. So great was the impression he made that, on Saturday 15 May 1909, twenty years after his death, a service was held in the Parish Church in his honour , where a choir, comprised of old members of his singing classes, sang Evensong. Old chants were used for the Psalms, old tunes were used for the hymns, and an old-world spirit pervaded the place. After the service a meat tea was provided in the school, then entertainment was arranged with glees and songs contributed by old friends. The Vicar accompanied the Choir, and present at the tea was Mrs Whitehead who 50 years previously had been the principal soloist in the choir. The proceedings terminated with "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".



In Memory

OF THE LATE

Mr. John Taylor.

Written for the Re-Union of his Singing Class,
St. George's School,
On Saturday, May 15th, 1909.

Lawton M. Ogden, Printer, Mossley.



St. George's Choir c.1952/3

Back Row: J. Andrew, E. Woodhouse, P. Wadsworth, C. Hancock, H. Wadsworth, S. Royle, D. Fitton, F. Colley, J. Sykes, R. Walker (Verger), B. Rainford (Server), R. Buckley (Warden).

Third Row: R. Peters (Server), J. Roylance, F. Walker, N. Mills, P. Andrew, N. Taylor, F. Wyatt, E. Slater, D. Colley, E. Dransfield, D. Hancock,

Second Row: J. Radcliffe (Warden), P. Marriot, B. Woods, K. Slater, A. Roylance, E. Buckley, Rev J. Bickley, G.M. Wrigley (Organist & Choirmaster), D. Fallows, J. Robinson, H. Towle, D. Stead.

Front Row: J. Edwards, R. Walsh, H. Harrop, B. Smith, G. Harrop, C. Mills, K. Mullaney, L. Stead, B. Isherwood, C. Walsh.

Mothers' Union Corner

The Mothers' Union was started in the village of Old Alresford, near Winchester, in 1876 by Mary Sumner, her husband, George, being the rector of the parish. Mary Sumner invited 30 or 40 local mothers to start attending a regular support group meeting at which suggestions for child rearing practises were given, and prayers were said. A speech by Mary Sumner in 1885 to a mass meeting in Portsmouth, promoting the idea of a union of mothers, led to the formation of the Mothers' Union. In 1897 Queen Victoria became the Patron of the Mothers' Union and then the union became international. Mary Sumner died in 1921 and was buried at Winchester Cathedral.

The Mossley Branch of the Mothers' Union was founded in May 1927 by Mrs Ann Marie Hands, wife of the Vicar. Their 21st birthday in 1948 saw the dedication of a beautiful processional cross. Its holder was placed on a choir pew near to the pulpit. *(photograph top left of opposite page)*

In January 1940 the Mossley Mothers' Union met week by week at Mossley Brow School and industriously knitted "comforts" for soldiers, comforts being woollen goods such as socks, mittens, gloves, scarves, and balaclavas. Other efforts were arranged to raise money for "The Soldiers' Comfort Fund" to be distributed to the men and boys of St George's Church and Sunday School who were serving with HM Forces. The effort of 5 October 1940 raised £28 12s 11d. With these funds 90 Postal Orders of 5/- (5s) (5 shillings) (25p) were purchased.

On Sunday 4 March 1951 the Mothers' Union corner of the church was dedicated. Its presence gave an added dignity to St George's. Gifts to perpetuate the memory of former members were promised. The Mothers' Union corner at St George's Church today contains many items relating to its branch members.

The 21st Anniversary of the founding of the Mossley Mothers' Union in 1948 saw the dedication of a beautiful processional cross. Its holder can be found on a choir pew near to the pulpit.
For a photograph of the holder please see the top left of the opposite page.

1n 1976 several kneelers were embroidered by members of the Mothers' Union to commemorate the centenary of the Mothers' Union. One such kneeler was embroidered by Mrs Marie Woods. Marie was only 62 years old when she died in 1979, just a short time after creating the kneeler. Marie Woods is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book. Marie's husband was Harold who transferred all of the St Augustine's memorabilia to St George's in 1982. Harold was 82 years old when he died in 1995. Harold Woods had married Marie Wood in 1939 at the Road End, Methodist Chapel, in Oldham. Their ashes are scattered on the Garden of Remembrance at St George's.



The Jubilee of the Mossley Branch of the Mothers' Union in 1977 was celebrated with a tea and an evening's entertainment.
In 1978 a new Mother's Union Banner was dedicated. Mr and Mrs Buckley presented the banner poles and cross piece as a memorial to the late Mrs Buckley.
In 2017 the Mossley branch of the Mothers' Union celebrated its 90th Anniversary. A letter of interest in the celebrations was sent by the Patron of the Mothers' Union, Queen Elizabeth II.





The Mothers' Union Prayer
is displayed on the north wall in the Mothers' Union corner

"Oh Lord, fill us with Thy Holy Spirit, and may we firmly believe in Jesus Christ and love Him with all our hearts. Wash our soul in His precious blood. Make us to hate sin and to be Holy in thought word and deed. Help us to be faithful wives and loving mothers. Bless us and all who belong to the Mothers' Union. Unite us together in love and prayer and to teach us to train our children for Heaven. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit on our husbands and children. Make our homes of peace and love and may we so live on earth that we may live with Thee for ever in Heaven. For Jesus Christ sake. Amen."

above the Mothers' Union Prayer
Wall Plaque and Brass Plaque
It is inscribed: "This Corner is Dedicated to the Memory of Susannah Clayton and other Faithful Members of the Mothers' Union. 1950."
There are also two brass plaques to Susannah Clayton. One is on the Mothers' Union Display Table.
It is inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Susannah Clayton, Died January 7th 1950."
A second brass plaque is on the post at the side of the Lady Chapel altar and the inscription is the same.
Susannah Lloyd was born on 18 March 1873, she married Alfred Clayton at St George's Church in 1898. In 1939 Susannah and Alfred were living at 28 Mountain Street, Mossley. Alfred was an overlooker in a cotton spinning mill. Susannah was 76 years old when she died in 1950, she was buried at St George's in Grave 10 A, Range 27, in the 1832 Ground. Susannah Clayton is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book. Alfred was 87 years old when he died, he was buried with Susannah. Their headstone can still be seen in the 1832 ground in St George's Churchyard. It is believed that George Clayton who has a plaque near the Altar, is the son of Susannah and Alfred.

below the Mothers' Union Prayer
Brass Plaque
Please see the next page for a photograph of this brass plaque.
It is inscribed:
"In Loving Memory of Hannah Shaw a Faithful Member of The Mothers' Union 1880—1952"
In 1939 Hannah and her husband Joseph were living at 15 Bury Street, Mossley. In 1939 Joseph was a wire rope worker. Hannah was 72 years old when she died on 21 September 1952 at Kershaw Hey Cottage / or Farm, Hey Heads, Stalybridge. Hannah was buried at St George's on 24 September 1952. There is no surviving headstone for Hannah. Hannah Shaw is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Mothers' Union Corner

Sarah Ann Allott—Prayer Desk Location: facing the Lady Chapel Altar
Sarah Ann Hall was baptised at St George's Church, Mossley, on 1 March 1874. Sarah Ann Hall married Fred Hallum Allott at St James', Millbrook, in 1895. In 1911 they lived at 24 Barkwell Lane, Mossley. During the Great War Sarah Ann Allott worked at the Auxiliary Military Hospital, housed in the Mechanics' Institute in Mossley. Working alternate months as a nurse and as a cook she was paid 5 shillings per week (25p). When cooking Sarah Ann was on duty from 7am to 6pm, and when working on the ward she was on duty from 7am to 9pm. She had one half day off duty each week. She and another lady cook / nurse are the only people known to have worked at the hospital full time and to have received a wage. Over the $4^1/_2$ years that the hospital was opened Sarah Ann Allott must have worked over 18,000 hours. Sarah Ann would have been 40 years old when she started work at the hospital. During the Second World War many of the Mossley St John Ambulance Nursing Sisters manned the first aid post for the ARP (Air Raids Precaution). Her husband Fred served as 317 with the Duke of Wellington's from 6 April 1908 to 5 April 1914 (6 years) and spent time serving in South Africa. He received the Queen's South African medal and the Volunteer Long Service Medal and retired with the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 1914 he enlisted with the 9th Battalion, Manchester Regiment (the Ashton Territorials) and served in the UK until 1917 – he was discharged due to deafness. He was one of the first men to register for the ARP in WW2. In 1940 he wrote a poem and sold copies of it to raise money for the Comfort Fund. He raised £7 10s 3d and he sent a copy to the Prime Minister. Fred and Sarah Ann were both aged 78 years when they died. Fred and Sarah were buried on the same day, 26 January 1951, at St George's. They are buried with their daughter and son-in-law. The family headstone has survived, is a red marble colour, and is located close to the Wyre Street boundary wall. Sarah Ann Allott is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Emma Horne—Prayer Desk Location: facing the Lady Chapel Altar
Emma Meakin was born in 1876, she married Ned Horne in 1896, at St George's Church, they had two daughters, but one died in infancy. The surviving daughter, Mary Jane Bentley Horne, married Lees Mosley in 1923. During the Great War, when he was 21 years old, Lees Mosley was awarded the Military Medal. The Horne family lived on Stockport Road in Mossley. Ned worked as a paviours labourer, and later as a night soil labourer. Emma worked as a cotton reeler. Ned was 74 years old when he died in 1946, and Emma was 71 years old when she died in 1948. They are buried together in Grave 4, M Range, in the 1820 Ground at St George's. Their headstone was removed in 1974. Their daughter and son-in-law's grave at St George's does have a surviving headstone.



All three of these ladies are Commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.





Mothers' Union Corner

Eliza Howard and Annie Norton—Prayer Desk

In the Mothers' Union Corner, upon a Prayer Table, facing the Lady Chapel, is a Memorial Plaque, with an Inscription that reads:
" In Loving Memory, Annie Norton 1870-1937,
Eliza Howard 1873-1949."

Annie Taylor married Rothwell Norton
in 1893 at Old St George's Church, Stalybridge.
Annie Norton, of Egerton House, Lees Road, Mossley was 67 years old when she died in 1937.
Rothwell Norton, of Egerton House, Lees Road, Mossley, was 72 years old when he died in 1940.
Annie and Rothwell were buried at St Paul's Church in Stalybridge in Grave 54, Range 32, Yard O .
Eliza Howard, age 76, of Egerton House, Mossley, was buried on 29 December 1949
in Grave 3, Range P, in the 1874 Ground,
at St George's Church, Mossley.
This grave was then full.
There was no headstone in 1974.
The *relationship* between
Eliza Howard and Annie and Rothwell Norton,
has not been established.
The *connection* is Egerton House, Mossley.
Right: Annie Norton 1870—1937 (nee Taylor).



Esther Shepley—Mothers' Union Memorial Book Location: Inside the Mothers' Union Display Table
The first entry in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book reads:
"Mothers' Union Memorial Book In Loving Memory of Esther Shepley a faithful and devoted member of the Mothers' Union for Thirty Years = who died October 1954 = in her Eighty First Year."
Esther Moss was born on 9 August 1874, she married Charles Shepley at St George's Church on 25 February 1911. When they married both Esther and Charles were 36 years old. Charles was an embosser, and a widower, Esther was a spinster. Charles' first wife, Ann Lees, nee Whitehead, had died in 1909. She is buried at Mossley Cemetery. The 1911 Census shows Esther and Charles, and Charles' son James Alfred from his first marriage, living at 15 Oak View, Staley Road, Mossley. James Alfred had been born in 1902. In 1911 Charles was working as an embosser at Carrbrook Printworks. Charles died in 1937, he was 63 years of age. Charles was buried with his first wife in Mossley cemetery. In 1939 Esther was a widow living at 95 Staley Road, Mossley. Esther Shepley was 80 years old when she died in Mossley on 15 October 1954. She was buried in Grave 29, Range A, in the 1874 Ground, at St George's on 19 October. Her headstone was removed in 1974.

Amy Webster— Credence Shelf Location: On the north wall of the Lady Chapel
The wall shelf is inscribed: "Thanks be to God From William and Amy Webster 1966."
Amy Kaye was 19 years old when she married William Oliver Webster in 1920 at St George's Church. Their daughter was born in 1921. A son was born in 1931 but he died the same year. In 1939 the Webster family were living at 3 Dyson Street, Mossley. William was a coal bagger, and Amy and daughter Joyce were cotton twist piecers. Amy was 75 years old when she died in 1977, and William was 84 years old when he died in 1987. Their headstone stands at Grave 22, Range 21, in the 1832 Ground at St George's.

Charlotte Bennett— Prayer Desk Location: under the Altar in the Lady Chapel
Inscribed: "
Charlotte Wadsworth was born in 1877, she married Joseph Bennett at St George's in 1908, and they had three children. In 1911 they lived at 20 Spring Street, Mossley. Joseph enlisted in 1914, and first served in France on 15 April 1915. He served in France for almost four years and crossed to France four times in that period. Joseph died of wounds on 27 August 1918 and was buried at Bulls Road Cemetery in France. Charlotte's brother, Percy Wadsworth, died of wounds on 26 August 1918, he is also buried in France. Charlotte lost her husband and her brother within two days of each other. Both Joseph Bennett and Percy Wadsworth are listed on the St George's War Memorial. Charlotte died in 1944, aged 57. She is buried in Grave 46 in Mossley Cemetery. Her place of burial is unmarked. Charlotte Bennett is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Elizabeth Ogden— Prayer Desk Location: under the Altar in the Lady Chapel
Inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Ogden 1884—1960."
Elizabeth Taylor was born on 6 July 1884, she married Percy Ogden at St George's in 1908. At the time Percy was a butcher living at 1 Egerton Street, Elizabeth's family home was 6 Lorne Street, Mossley. The 1911 Census show Percy as a beef butcher, living with his wife and one child at 67 Lorne Street, Mossley. Percy and Elizabeth had ten children in total: Edith Mary born in 1909, Arthur born in 1910, Agnes and Harry born in 1911, Margaret Alice born in 1913, Edwin born in 1915, Annie born in 1917, Joan born in 1919, and John born in 1922. Percy was Mayor of Mossley 1933-1934, he died in 1938. The 1939 Register shows Elizabeth, a widow , living with her daughter Annie at 3 Highland View, Quick Edge, Mossley. Elizabeth died in 1960, she was 76 years old. She was buried on Christmas Eve 1960 and joined Percy. They were buried in Grave 9, Range 20, in the 1832 Ground. Buried with them are four of their children, Edith Mary and Harry who died as young children, and Arthur and Margaret Alice who died as teenagers. The family headstone and kerbs, with a lain down cross, still exists and can be seen on the path that runs north to south on the far side of St George's churchyard. It is a large square plot surrounded by other headstones. Elizabeth Ogden is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Ellen Roylance—Prayer Desk Location: under the Altar in the Lady Chapel
Ellen Schofield was born on 4 February 1883, she was baptised at St George's on 4 March 1883 by Rev Farthing. She was married to James Roylance on 23 January 1922 at St George's by Rev Baggott. Ellen was a spinster aged 38 years old, and James was a widower aged 50 years old. James' first wife, Sarah Ann (nee Smith) had died in 1920, and had been buried at St George's. James and Sarah Ann had a daughter, James and Ellen had a son. In 1939 James, the Sexton for St George's and the Caretaker for St George's School, and Ellen, were living at the School House, which was between 46 and 48 Stamford Street, Mossley. James Roylance, of 11 George Street, died on 9 June 1948, he was 78 years old. James was buried on 12 June 1948, in Grave 18, Range 25, in the 1832 Ground, at St George's. Ellen Roylance, of 11 George Street, Mossley, was 69 years old when she died on 19 March 1952. Ellen was buried on 22 March 1952 with James at St George's. There was no headstone for James and Ellen in 1974. Ellen is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Louisa Wadsworth—Brass Plaque Location: On the gable of the Lady Chapel screening.
Inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Louisa Wadsworth Died January 5th 1952."
Louisa was the wife of John Smith Wadsworth, they lived at 4 Arundel Street, Mossley. She was only 54 years old when she died. Louisa Lowe married John Smith Wadsworth on 19 December 1921 at St George's. When they married John Smith was an electrical engineer living with his parents at the Shears Inn. During World War One John Smith served with the RAF, joining just four months before his brother, Sergeant Percy Wadsworth, who was serving with the army, died of wounds in France. John Smith and Louisa Wadsworth did not have any children. John Smith's ashes were scattered on the Garden of Remembrance in 1967. The Lady Chapel was dedicated in 1965. Louisa Wadsworth is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Garden of Remembrance Display Table

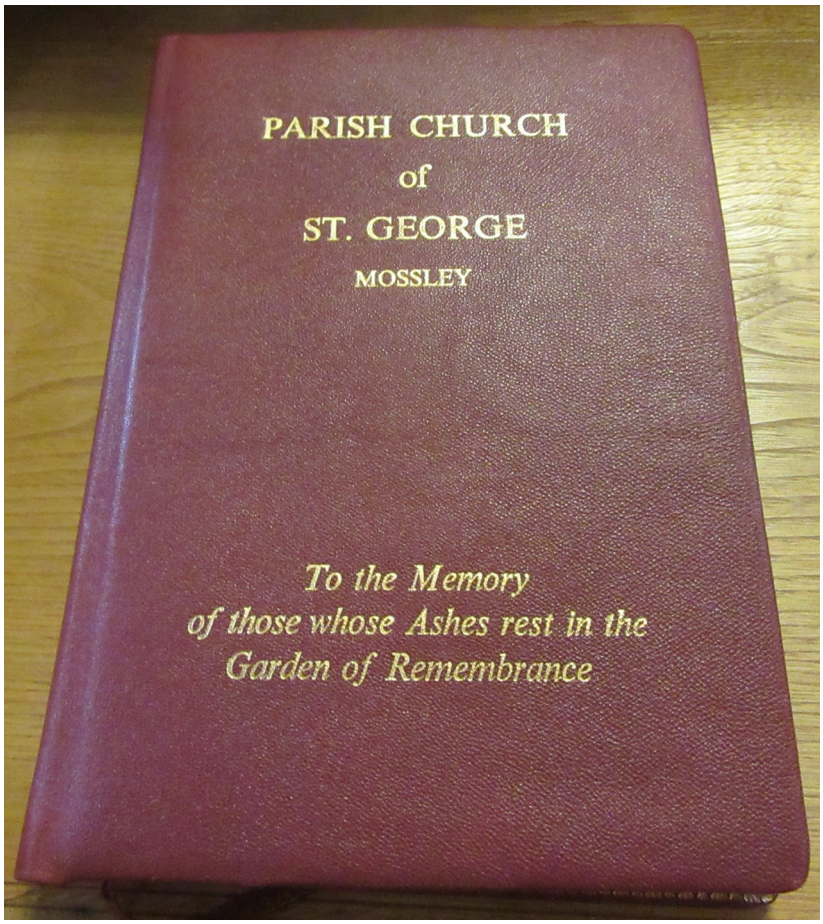
Money to pay for the laying out of the Garden of Remembrance was raised by subscription and the usual forms of fund raising. It is located between the north wall of the Church and St George's School. The Garden of Remembrance was dedicated by The Right Revd K V Ramsey M A, Lord Bishop of Hulme, on 7 May 1955. Three oak benches placed in the garden were donated by Mr and Mrs W Hardigon; Mrs Ethel E Marland, the Mayor; and the Ladies Congregational Stall. The area had once been a piece of neglected ground once used for stock-piling coke. Today the Garden of Remembrance is well tended.

A display table within St George's church holds the Memorial Book of those whose ashes rest in the Garden of Remembrance. The earliest record listed inside the book is:

Suzannah Norminton, age 87 years, of 25 Westbourne Road, Wallasey, her ashes were scattered in the St George's Church Garden of Remembrance on 1 August 1955. The burial book confirms that this is the very first time that the Garden of Remembrance was used; the garden had been dedicated in May 1955.

Suzannah's husband, Fred Harry Norminton, had been buried at St George's on 26 October 1920. It is interesting to note that the 1901 Census shows Suzannah and Fred Harry Norminton living at 3 Norminton Buildings, Micklehurst. One Charles Norminton is recorded as being, in 1832 and 1830, the tenant of Squire's Mill, a water powered mill on Micklehurst Brook. No doubt that the name of the row of houses can be traced back to Charles, who is believed to be the Great Grandfather of Fred Harry.

The Memorial Book records that there have been over 470 scatterings of ashes in the Garden.



The Burial Book for St George's gives more detail on the scattering of the ashes of the following person:

Basil Winterbourne, cremated on 16 December 1963 at Warren Hill Crematorium in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. His remains were placed in the St George's Church Garden of Remembrance on 23 January 1965.

The Garden of Remembrance Display Table itself is inscribed with the following memorial:

"In Loving Memory of Anthony Briggs 1947—1972."

Anthony had been born in South Manchester on 10 October 1947, his mother's maiden name being Wragg. Anthony Edward Briggs of 11 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham, died in Macclesfield on 17 March 1972. Following his cremation Anthony Edward's ashes were scattered on the St George's Garden of Remembrance on 26 March 1972. Anthony Edward Briggs was just 24 years old.

The Lady Chapel

On 12 December 1965 the Bishop of Hulme, Rt Revd Kenneth Ramsey, dedicated the Lady Chapel, this was set up in place of the previous Mothers' Union Corner of Remembrance.



The Lady Chapel is greatly admired for its beauty and simplicity.

In January 2020 a new statue was added to the Lady Chapel, the gift of the Mothers' Union, in thanksgiving for the late Audrey Nield. The statue was Blessed on 13 February 2020 during the meeting of the Mothers' Union. (Photo Right)

Sanctuary Chair From The Old Chapel

Inscribed: "This Chair Originally In The Sanctuary Of The Old Church But Diverted For Many Years To Secular Use Was Restored To The Service Of The Church By Mrs Percy Hirst October 24th 1909."

It is thought that this chair was placed in the sanctuary of the first St George's Chapel when it was built in 1755. It was possibly made by Anthony Hardy, who made the first pulpit.

Sanctuary Chairs were the only chairs which the Prayer Book provides for and were provided before pews or seats were contemplated.

The story goes that when Revd Hextall appointed Revd H T Fletcher as his curate in 1844 it was felt that there ought to be two chairs in the sanctuary, one for each Minister. Two matching chairs were purchased and the original sanctuary chair was then used by the Clerk, John Nield.

In 1909 the original sanctuary chair was restored by Mrs Percy Hirst. Mrs Percy Hirst is likely to be Alice Hirst who in 1891 lived at 10 Stamford Street, Mossley, in 1901 lived at 53 Lorne Street, Mossley, and in 1911 lived 52 Lorne Street, Mossley.



Percy Hirst, a Chemist, was 24 years old when he married Alice Ogden at St George's Church in Mossley on 22 May 1889. In Kelly's 1892 Cheshire Directory Percy Hirst is listed as a Chemist working at 10 Stamford Street, Mossley.

Alice died in 1925, and Percy died in 1949. Their daughter Alice Mabel married Rev David Vincent Jones, Curate of St George's 1928—1931. They are all buried at St George's, and their headstone still stands, in the south-west part of the 1874 churchyard.

Brass Cross in The Lady Chapel
33.5” x 13”.
Inscribed:
“AMDG and in Memory of John Clark, who died 20th March 1914, Presented by his Loving Wife.”

The Man Who Saved Mossley From Ruin—Alderman John Clark JP

John Clark was born in 1863 at Penpont, Dumfriesshire, and received his early education in the village school. In 1881 he was working as a farm hand in Scotland. He joined the Lancashire Constabulary, coming to Mossley in 1885. When John married Isabella Allott Wood at St George’s on 4 July 1888 he was the publican of the Railway Hotel, Manchester Road. John had left the force and become the Licensee on the death of his father-in-law, James Wood. In 1891 he was the innkeeper of the Waggon & Horses on Waggon Road in Mossley. He left there in 1895 to take over the tenancy of the Commercial Hotel on Manchester Road, and was there until 1898.

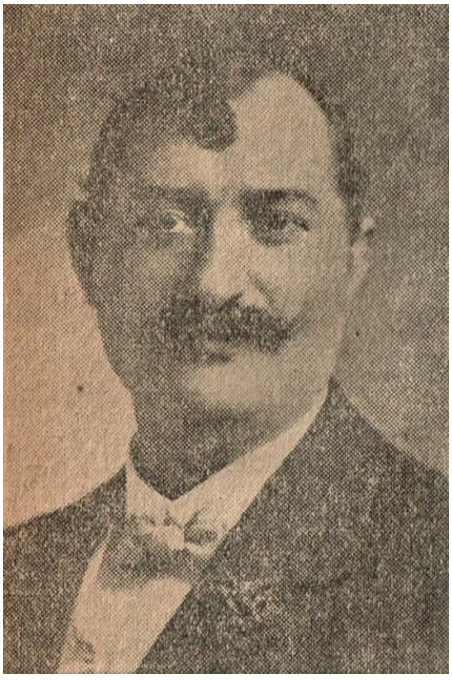
At this time the cotton trade of the town was in a perilous state and seemed to be dying. John Clark was a keen and able business man, and was chiefly responsible for resurrecting the Brunswick Spinning Company, for which he was appointed a director in 1896. He next directed his efforts towards re-opening Egmont Mill, which had been closed for six months. He reorganised the workforce and brought the Egmont Spinning Co into being. In September 1897 he purchased Albert House in Mossley and, retiring from the licensed business in 1898, devoted himself to commercial pursuits. By 1901 he had become a cotton spinner employer, reopening Albert Mill which had lain closed for many months, and he found work for several hundred people. Alderman Clark’s ability was so firmly believed in that the Co-operative Society agreed to invest a large sum of money into the firm, and others followed. His next venture was called “hare-brained” and one good judge said it would break him. It was nothing less than the purchase of Queen Street Mills, previously owned by and worked by George Mayall and Sons. The capacity of the mills was 220,000 spindles. Mr Clark never hesitated, he weighed up the pros and the cons, and went forward. His splendid nerve utterly reversed all the prophecies. The Victoria Spinning Company, and Messrs Clark and Wilson’s, firms which evolved out of the chaos, were amongst the first Limited Companies in the country with a stable financial position.

John Clark was a member of Mossley Council for 21 years, and he was Mayor from 1897 to 1899.

Alderman John Clark JP, of Albert House, Mossley, died on 20 March 1914. He was only 51 years old.

Following a service at Mossley church John was buried in Mossley Cemetery. In December 2019 the large cross was taken from the top of his monument, and laid to rest on the ground, by Tameside MBC.





The Memorial Chapel

The Memorial Chapel was dedicated on St George's Day, 23 April 1918, and was a gift from the then incumbent, Revd Charles Hodgett Bagott. A brass plaque on the wall records the gift:
"A M D G and in Memory of the Men from this Parish who fell in the war 1914—1918. This Chapel was erected by C H Baggott Vicar April 1918. We therefore pray thee help thy servants whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy saints in Glory Everlasting. R I P."

The First World War Memorial, which lists the names of over 170 men, and the Lychgate, were dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Whalley on St George's Day 23 April 1920. One of the Hymns sung at the 2.30 pm Service was "Onward Christian Soldiers". The Service ended with "God Save The King".
There are nine sets of brothers listed on the memorial. The memorial states:
"To The Glorious Memory of the Men of this Town Who Fell in the Great War 1914—1918."

The Lychgate at the entrance to St George's Church is:
"a very handsome memorial and imposing entrance to the churchyard."
It is made from English Oak standing on granite with a roof of tiles. It is 9' 6" across, 12' high, and has a roof depth of 9'.
"It is a fitting and beautiful memorial to the men who died so nobly for their country and is a public memorial to the men who fell in the Great War."
On the front is engraved:
"1914. In Memoriam. 1919."

Both the Lychgate and the tablets are the town's memorials.
The two schemes cost approximately £500, raised by public subscription.

A Prayer Desk located near the Altar bears the inscription:
"A Thankoffering From Mothers and Relatives of the Men who have returned safely from the War Christmas 1919."

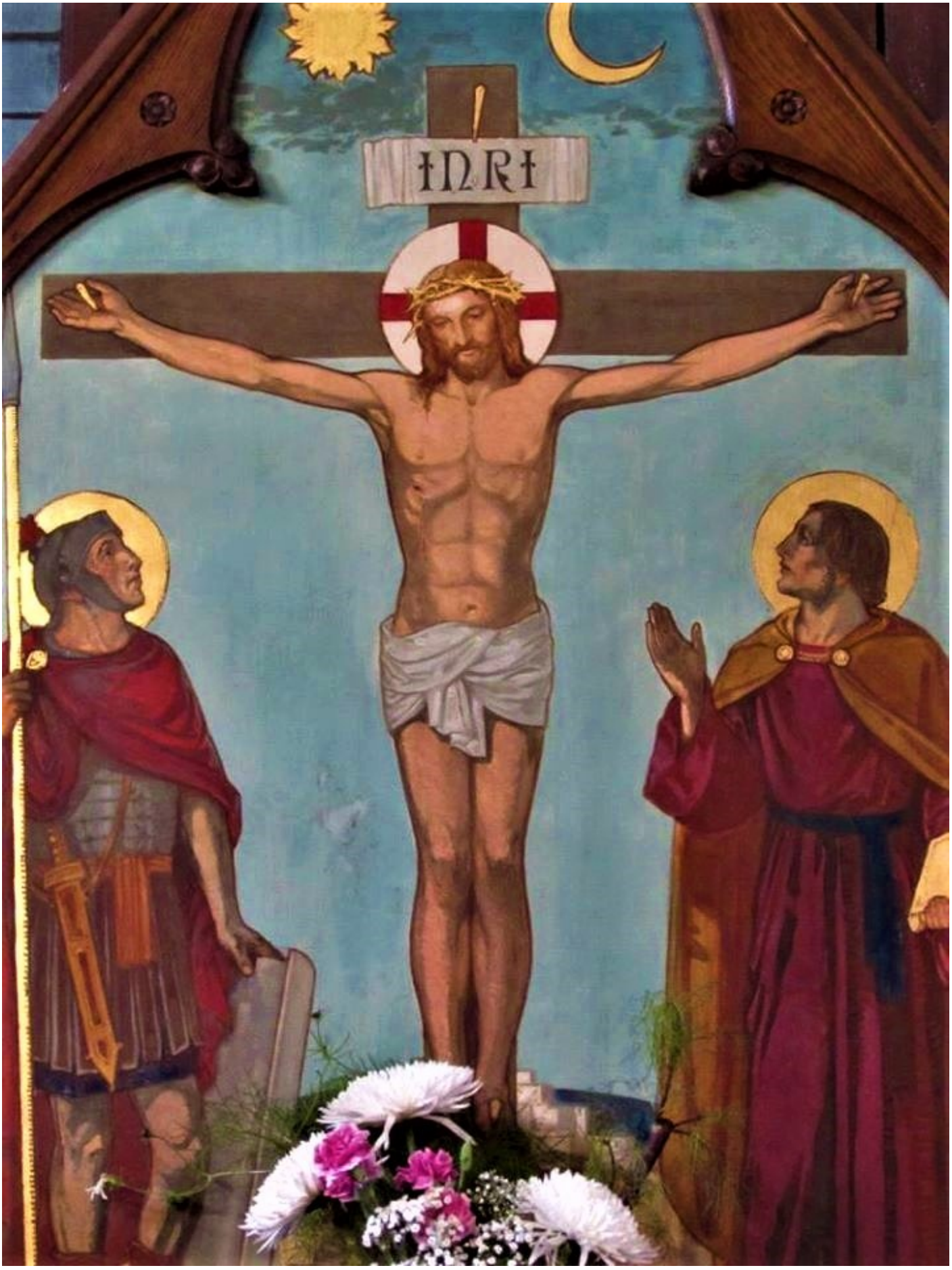
The reredos of the memorial chapel was added in 1936, is in memory of Fred Short and takes the form of paintings. The central panel, shown opposite, being the Crucifixion, and the outer panels showing women gathered at the foot of the cross. The panels are the work of Messrs W Morris of London, who also executed the stained glass window in the main entrance to the Church. If you look at the eyes of Jesus in the reredos you see them looking down towards where the chalice is placed on the Altar.

The Second World War Memorial which names 57 Mossley men, irrespective of their denomination, was added in 1947 and cost £45. A brass plaque beneath reads:
"In Memory of the Men of Mossley Who Fell in the War 1939—1945. Erected by the Parochial Church Council 1947. Greater Love Hath No Man Than This."

A further Memorial lists the names of two men and is engraved:
"To The Memory of The Residents of This Town Killed In Action Since 1945".

Guardsman John Ronald "Ronnie" Hall, of the Grenadier Guards, age 20, killed on 12 March 1949, during an ambush, buried in Kuala Lumpa. Lived on Quickedge Road, had attended St Joseph's church & school.

Corporal Joseph "Joey" Etchells, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, age 22, killed on 19 July 2009, by an IED explosion whilst on foot patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan; had attended Mossley Hollins school. Joey's funeral service was conducted at St George's, and his ashes were scattered on the Garden of Remembrance on Tuesday 11 August 2009. On that day the bells of the church were rung half-muffled in honour of his memory.



The Centre Panel of the Reredos of the Memorial Chapel

The Memorial Chapel and the War Memorials

Photo taken in 1962



The St Augustine's marble Roll of Honour

The St Augustine's marble Roll of Honour was brought to St George's following its closure in 1982:

This Roll of Honour is Erected
To The Glory of God And
For The Safe Return of the
Following Scholars of
This School Who Served

Great War 1914—1919.

(followed by 26 names)

The first two names listed on the St Augustine's Roll of Honour, in the left-hand column, are:
Percy Mosley and Harry Radcliffe.
Prior to the war both were members of the Mossley branch of St John Ambulance, and, in 1914, both voluntarily enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps.
In January 1915 Harry Radcliffe had his war poem about *The Voluntary Hospital at Wimereux* printed in *The Reporter.* Wimereux Communal Cemetery is the place where Lt John McCrae is buried. Lt John McCrae wrote the well known, and often quoted, war poem *In Flanders Fields.*

Mossley Brow Sunday School

During the Great War 35 men of the Mossley Brow Sunday School served with the Armed Forces.
Thirteen men lost their lives (for their names please see the Brass Plaque below).
During the Second World War 47 men and 4 women of the Mossley Brow Sunday School served with the Armed Forces or the Civil Defence.
Two of the men lost their lives (J Stamford and H Sutcliffe).







The Abney Congregational Church Brass Plaque

The Abney Congregational Church on Abney Road in Mossley had a Roll of Honour that listed the names of the one hundred and sixty-two Abney men who served with the colours, twenty-five of whom made the supreme sacrifice. On the wall of Abney Church was the brass plaque, mounted on oak, bearing the names of the twenty-five Abney men killed in action.

In February 1915 there were about forty young men connected with Abney Congregational Church and School either training for or taking part in the war.

The pastor, The Reverend James Campbell, forwarded to each one of the forty a special khaki wallet, which included special hymns and prayers, and could be used as a letter case.

Reverend James Campbell died of anthrax in 1916. He was buried in Mossley Cemetery.

The church building was demolished in the 1980's and the congregation then met at the branch school on Huddersfield Road, Micklehurst, where the brass plaque was next displayed. The Abney branch closed its doors for the last time in 2017. The Abney brass plaque was displayed at St George's during the "There But Not There" commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War One in November 2018. The Abney brass plaque is now kept at St John the Baptist Church in Mossley.

The Non-Conformist of Stamford Road

Congregational religious services were held in Mossley from 1838, but regular services did not start until 1852 when John and George Mayall, of Stamford Road, who were non-conformists, provided temporary accommodation in Britannia Mill, owned jointly be the brothers, whilst waiting for Abney Church to be built. John and George Mayall helped to finance the building of Abney Church, at the bottom of Stamford Road, the foundation stone being laid in 1854. John Mayall Junior is named as one of the Trustee's on the Trust Deed dated 2 August 1853 for the Christian (Unitarian) Church, built at the top of Stamford Road.

The Christian (Unitarian) Church War Memorial

Revd C E Reed of the Christian Church started a four-month Tour of Duty with the YMCA in August 1918, he was based with the 5th Army Musketry School.

The World War One Memorial originally inside the Christian (Unitarian) Church on Stamford Road, Mossley, is a tablet of Sicilian Marble and was erected to the memory of those associated with the church and Sunday school who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War and gave their lives that we may live in safety and peace.

The unveiling ceremony took place on Sunday 9th January 1921 with the words
"We honour their courage and self sacrifice in the time of national necessity and remember with thankfulness the spirit of their lives."

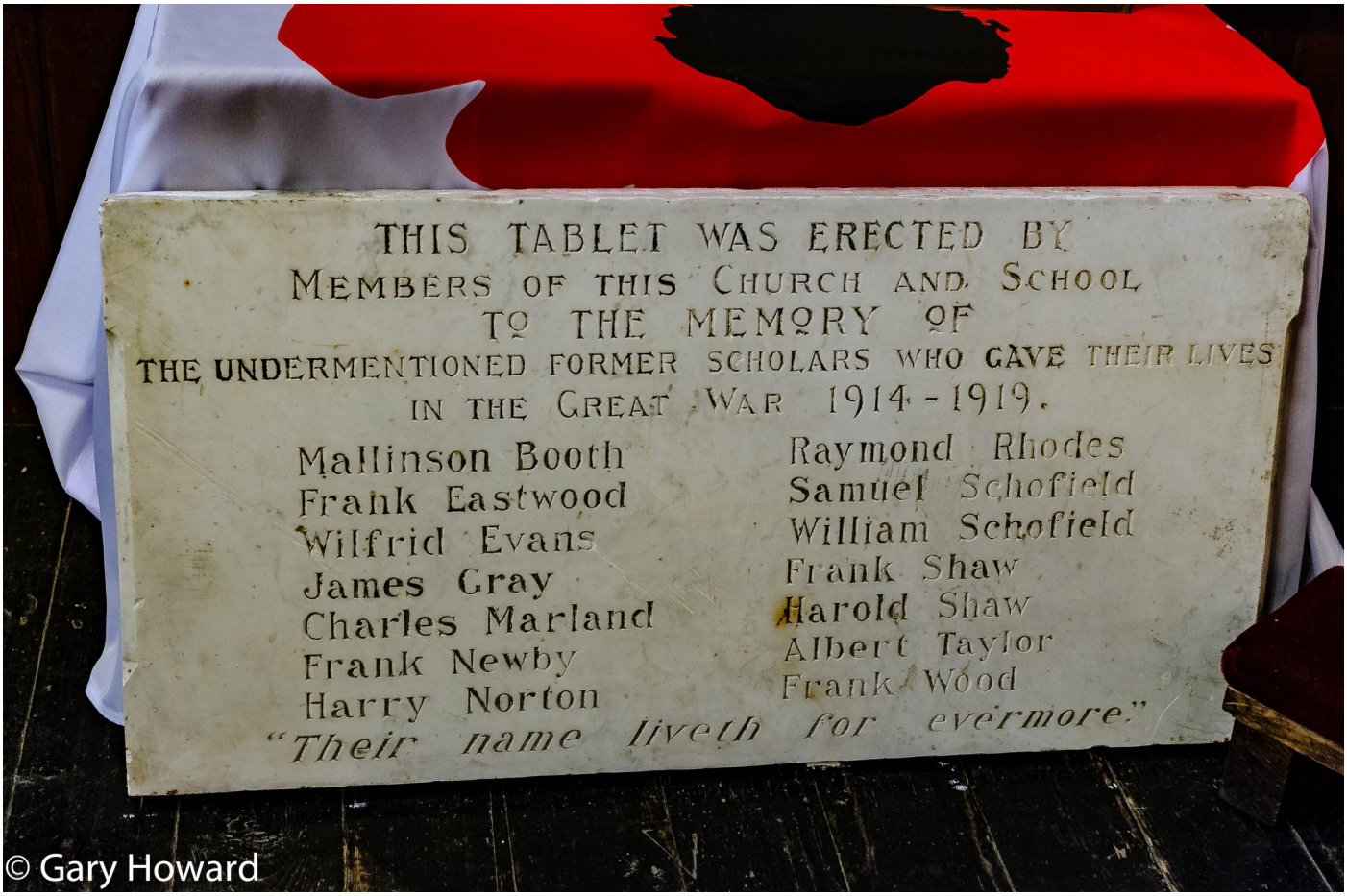
Over forty-five members of the church served, the memorial tablet shows the names of fourteen men associated with the Christian (Unitarian) Church and Sunday School who gave their lives. Six of the names on the tablet do not appear on the Mossley WWI Memorial in St George's Church. The marble War Memorial is now displayed on the west wall of the café area of the church room at St George's.

The Christian (Unitarian) Church building has now been converted into residential apartments, the last service on the premises being 19 May 2002, and the very last meeting of the congregation was at their rented premises in Arundel Street, Mossley, in 2016.



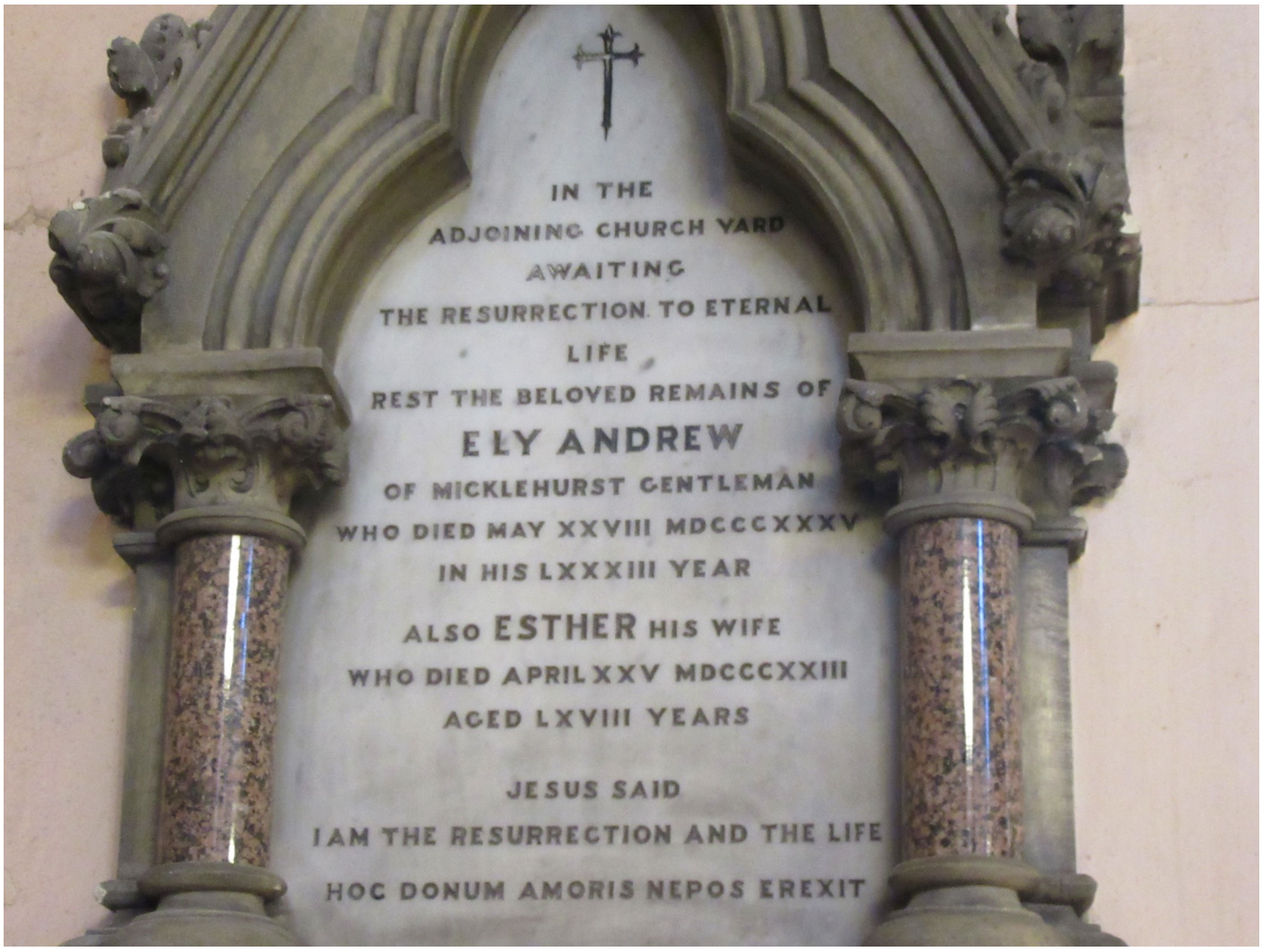
Above: "This Window is erected to do Honour to the Memory of the Men who have fallen in the Great War 1914—1919 and who were connected with this Church and Sunday School and Abney Branch, Micklehurst."
Fred Hitchman was awarded a Military Medal, the Greens and the Stewarts were two sets of brothers.

Below: "This Tablet Was Erected By Members of This Church and School. To The Memory of the Undermentioned Former Scholars Who Gave Their Lives In The Great War 1914—1919. Their Name Liveth For Evermore."
Frank and Harold Shaw were brothers. Both photographs were taken during the 2018 "There But There" Exhibition.



Plaques

Eli / Ely Andrew—Stone and Marble Plaque
Inscribed:
"In the Adjoining Church Yard Awaiting the Resurrection to Eternal Life Rest the Beloved Remains of ELY ANDREW of Micklehurst, Gentleman Who died May 28, 1830 in his 83 year . Also ESTHER his wife who died April 25, 1823, Aged 68 years. Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life Hoc Donum Amoris Nepos Erexit (This Gift Of Love Raised). Sempur Paratus. John Eaton, Ashton."
Eli Andrew was a woollen manufacturer at Hollin's Mill, which was located on Micklehurst Brook. Eli had been born about 1752, and in 1779 he married Esther Worthington, at St Michael's in Ashton-under-Lyne. Esther Andrew died in 1823 age 68 years, and about 1824 Hollins mill passed into the hands of their son Jonathan Andrew, who had been born in 1788. Eli died in 1835, age 83 years. Eli's brother was Doctor Andrew, a woollen manufacturer of Micklehurst, who leased from 1797 what became known as Doctor's Mill, the next mill up stream on Micklehurst Brook after Hollins mill. Eli and Esther's grandson, Allen Andrew, and their great-grandchildren, Kitty Walmsley Andrew, and Alice Andrew, all have a stained glass window dedicated to them at St George's. This plaque is located on the east end of the south wall.

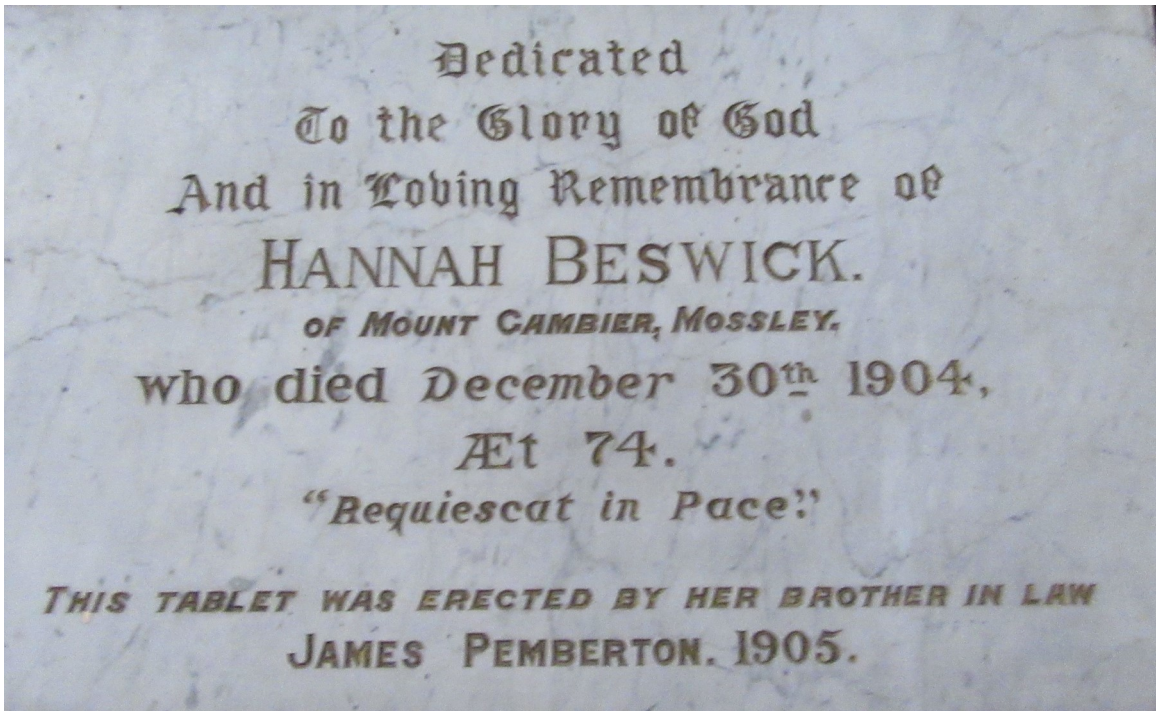


George Clayton—a Metal Plaque near the door from the Choir Vestry, that leads to the Altar.
Inscribed: "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of George Clayton 1905—1962 The Lighting in the Chancel was given by his wife Ruby." (Ruby donated £180 towards the cost of the £800 lighting.)
It is believed that George was the son of Susannah Clayton, who has a plaque in the Mothers' Union Corner of St George's. In 1939 George, a cotton salesman, was living with his parents at 28 Mountain Street, Mossley. George married Ruby Schofield in 1946 at St George's. George, of 58 Mossley Road, Grasscroft was 57 years old when he died in 1962, he Left Effects worth £43,000.

Hannah Beswick—Marble Plaque, Located on the south wall near the original font.
Inscribed:
"Dedicated to the Glory of God and in Loving Remembrance of Hannah Beswick of Mount Gambier, Mossley, who died December 30th 1904. AET 74. Requiescat in Pace. This tablet was erected by her brother-in-law James Pemberton. 1905." This plaque overlooks the font donated by Hannah Beswick. The lectern, and several stained glass windows, at St George's Church have been donated by various members of the extended Beswick family. Miss Beswick was born in the Bordeaux region of France in 1831, her parents were from Stalybridge. Hannah Beswick is shown as an annuitant daughter in 1841 and 1851 living at Sandbed; the 1871 to 1901 census show her living at "Mount Gambier", 25 Stamford Road, Mossley, on private means. In 1901, at the age of 70 years of age she was living with two servants, Nora Clarkson and Ellen Ibbotson. Hannah Beswick took an active interest in all that concerned the welfare of our parish church. Miss Hannah Beswick died at "Mount Gambier" on 30 December 1904. A copy of her Will is in the St George's Church archives.
Hannah Beswick left an estate of £23,810, specifying the sums of:

£4,346	to Manchester Infirmary
£4,000	to Manchester Eye Hospital
£1,000	to Henshaw's Asylum for the Blind
£1,000	to the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary
£500	to St George's Church, Mossley, to keep in repair the family vault, to increase the pay of bellringers, and for general church expenses
£200	to her housekeeper Nora Clarkson
£150	to All Saints' Church, Mossley, to provide a clock and chimes
£100	to St John's Church, Mossley, for general church expenses

In 1905 the Rev Charles Hodgetts Bagott, vicar at St George's, was granted the faculty to erect on the south wall of the church a marble tablet to the memory of Hannah Beswick.



Brass Vase
Inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Alan John Wrigley Born 31-7-1950 Died 22-8-1985."
Alan was the son of Eddie Wrigley and Joan Hinchliffe who had married in 1950 at All Saints' Church, Micklehurst. In 1939 Eddie worked as a cowman at Tonge Bottom Farm (now the Hartshead Inn).

James Lawton Andrew M D—Marble Plaque, Located on the west end of the north wall

Inscribed: "In Loving Memory of James Lawton Andrew M D who died April 5th 1907, Aged 67 Years. Thine is a high and holy office, see that thou exercise it purely, not for thine own advancement, not for thine own honour, but for the Glory of God and the good of thy neighbour."

James Lawton Andrew's parents were Samuel Andrew, a waste dealer of Knowle Lane, Ashton, and Catharine (nee Lawton) who had married at St John's in Manchester in 1835.

Catharine was buried on 26 February 1840 at St John's the Baptist, in Hey, Lees, she was 38 years old.

James Lawton Andrew was baptised on 19 April 1840 at St John the Baptist, Hey, Lees.

At the age of 11 James Lawton Andrew was living with his uncle Robert Dyson at Brookbottom, Mossley.

James Lawton Andrew MD married Marianne Perkins in Kendal in 1867.
They had three children, all three were baptised at St George's:
Kate, born 11 August 1868 at Baguley Hill, Mossley. Kate married Rev Richard Pratt at St George's in 1889.
Janet Elizabeth, born 8 October 1869 at Baguley Hill, Mossley, died age 14 years on 12 May 1884, and
Thomas Perkins, born on 28 April 1872, at Baguley Hill, Mossley, died age 20 years on 28 December 1892.

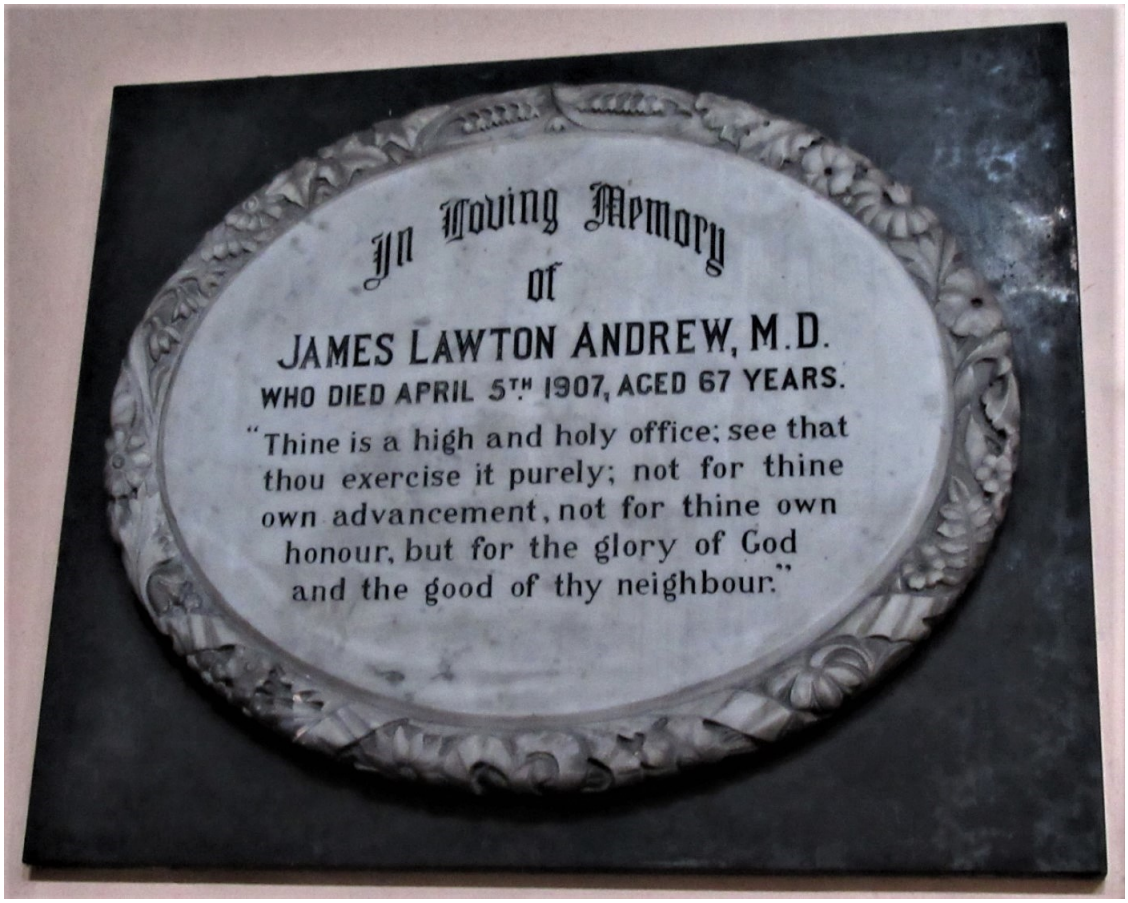
The 1871 Census show James Lawton Andrew as a Medical General Practitioner living on Stamford Road, Mossley, with his wife and two daughters.

The 1881 Census shows James Lawton Andrew MRCPE MRCS & LM & LAB still living at the same address, with his wife and three children. Daughter Janet Elizabeth died in 1884, daughter Kate married in 1889.

The 1891 Census shows James Lawton Andrew as a Physician and Surgeon, still living at the same address in Mossley, with his wife and son, who was a medical student. Son Thomas Perkins died in 1892.

Janet Elizabeth and Thomas Perkins have stained glass windows dedicated to them on the north wall.

The 1901 Census shows James Lawton Andrew as a Doctor of Medicine and a Physician Surgeon living with his wife at East Bank, Crescent Park, Heaton Norris.

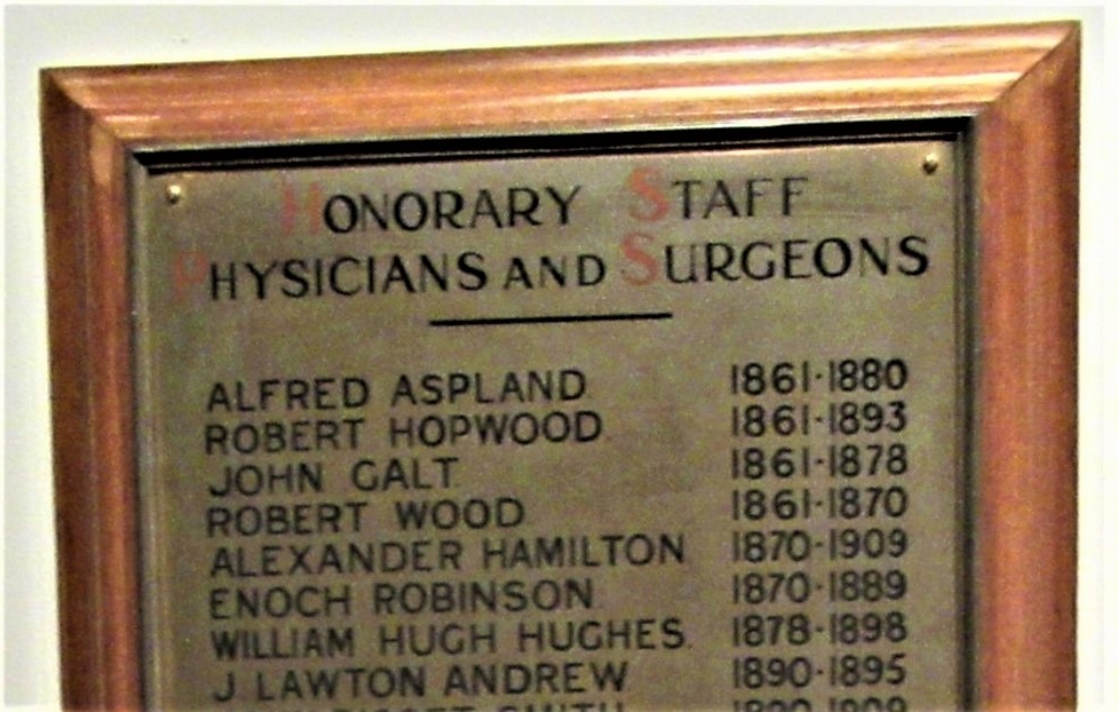


James Lawton Andrew M D, of East Bank, Crescent Park, Heaton Norris, died age 67, on 5 April 1907, and was buried on 9 April 1907, at St George's.

Marianne Andrew, of Linden Lea, Ellesmere Park, Eccles, died age 78, she was buried on 9 June 1910, at St George's.

James and his wife Marianne are buried with two of their children.

The family headstone was removed in 1974.



The plaque, left, was once displayed in the Ashton Infirmary, and commemorates James Lawton being the Honorary Physician and Surgeon from 1890 until 1895.

This plaque is now housed at Portland Basin Museum.



The Medical Career of James Lawton Andrew M D

James Lawton Andrew of Mossley successfully passed examinations and was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1863.

In 1870 there was a fatal accident at the Broadcarr Coal Pit and an inquest was held at the Collier's Arms. After a loud crack was heard in the mine John Birchenough was hit by a falling stone, which was a yard long and two feet wide. Dr Andrew attended, and spoke to the deceased, but his ribs had punctured his lung, John Birchenough succumbed to his injuries.

When Charles Field of Mossley brutally attached his wife with a hammer on 12 May 1872 they had been married but weeks. Dr James Lawton Andrew was sent for, and he attended Elizabeth Field every day until her death on 20 May 1872. At the inquest held at The Bridge Inn Dr Andrew gave evidence as to the number of injuries Elizabeth Field had received, including a broken skull, and nine injuries to her left arm. Charles Field was sentenced to be hung but due to his unsound mind was committed to Broadmoor.

In 1874 about 6 o'clock in the morning a young woman was found drowned in the canal, her body was taken to the Tollemache Arms, and it was there that her father identified her. Dr James Lawton Andrew examined the body and could find no signs of violence. A verdict of "Found Drowned" was returned.

From 1890 to 1895 James Lawton Andrew was the Honorary Physician and Surgeon at Ashton Infirmary. He is commemorated on a plaque that once hung in Ashton Infirmary and is now housed at Portland Basin Museum.

James Lawton Andrew MD appears in Kelly's Directory: in 1892 as a surgeon living at 35 Stamford Road, Mossley; in 1896 as being at 128 Wellington Road North, Stockport; and in 1902 as being at Crescent Park, Heaton Norris.

On the page opposite: the memorial plaque to James Lawton Andrew on the north wall inside St George's Church, Mossley.

Brassware

The First Steps is a framed list of baptisms on the south wall of the church overlooking the stone font:

First Steps
Jesus said: "Let the children come to me"
We have welcomed these children into
the life of our church
(Followed by 5 columns of names)
The Kingdom of God
Belongs to such as these

On the base of the First Steps framed list of baptisms
is a brass plaque:

PRESENTED TO THE CHILDREN'S CORNER
BY MR AND MRS J TRAVIS
TO COMMEMORATE THEIR
SILVER WEDDING DEC 24TH 1952

On 19 July 1916, at the age of 18 years, Joseph Travis, of Knott Hill Waterworks, Hartshead, a plumber and pipe fitter for the waterworks, enlisted as 227005 in the Road Troops Depot of the Royal Engineers.
Joseph was 5' $5^{1}/_{4}$" in height and weighed 132 lbs.
He was mobilized at Ashton Barracks on 5 February 1917, and embarked for France on 1 March 1917.
Joseph was hospitalised on 18 March 1917, and re-joined his unit on 25 March 1917.
He was demobilized on 28 February 1919 and received the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal.
Joseph Travis, age 29 years, a water foreman of 7 Egerton Street, Mossley, married on 24 December 1927 at St George's, Ellen Wood Smith, a widow, age 27 years, of 52 Stamford Road, Mossley.
Ellen's father was Everett Bridgestock.
Ellen had previously married Edward Wood Smith, a cotton spinner age 27 years, of 22 Stamford Road, Mossley, on 18 December 1920, at St George's, but Edward had died age 33 years in 1926.
Ellen and Edward's daughter Madge Wood Smith was born in 1924 in Mossley.
Ellen and Joseph's son John Travis was born in 1928 in Mossley.
The 1939 Register shows Joseph, Ellen, Madge, and John, and Joseph's mother Elizabeth, living at 58 Stamford Road, Mossley.
Joseph and Ellen Travis celebrated their Silver Wedding in 1952.
Elizabeth died in 1945, Ellen died in 1966, Joseph died in 1974.
They were all buried together in Plot 338 in the Old Part of Mossley Cemetery.
John Travis died on 3 April 1995, he is buried in the new extension of Mossley Cemetery.
There is a Brass Plaque on the right-hand side of the organ at St George's:

In Loving Memory of
John Travis 1928—1995
Organist and Choirmaster
of St George's Mossley."

Brassware

Brass Bookstand
Located on a low table in the Chancel. Inscription faded:
"A M D G. For the Greater Glory of God. Presented to All Saints' Church by Robert Radcliffe."

Brass Candlesticks
Tall. Located on the High Altar. Inscribed:
"In loving memory of Ernest Jarvis Bagott who died April 1904.
Presented by his sister A L Bradley May 1918."
Ernest Jarvis Bagott was the brother of Revd Charles Hodget Bagott, the Vicar of St George's 1902—1925. Ernest appears to have no other connection with Mossley. Both Ernest & Charles died in Worcestershire.

Brass Processional Cross
Located on the Balcony. Inscribed: "To The Memory Of Philip Wray. 1943—1976."
Philip Wray was born on 18 August 1943. He had two older sisters and two older brothers. His parents were William and Ivy (nee Crowther) who had married in 1923 at Christ Church, Dukinfield. Philip was 33 years old when he was killed in Oldham on 18 November 1976. He left a wife and two young sons. Phillip was buried at Mossley Cemetery on 26 November 1976. His widow died in 2002 age 57 years.

Brass Jug
Located near the stone baptismal font at the rear of the church.
Inscribed: "Mossley Parish Church Nov 18th 1917.
To The Glory of God and In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Thomasson
Who For Many Years Worshipped In This Church and Died Dec 12th 1916."
Elizabeth of Ingle Nook, Mossley, was 68 years old when she died in 1916. Her husband, Revd Thomas Thomasson, died at Ravendale in Lincolnshire in 1932 but was buried with Elizabeth at St George's. Elizabeth and Thomas' daughter, Elizabeth Ann, who had gained a Bachelor of Arts, was also buried with them when she died in 1948 age 66 years. When Elizabeth Ann's husband died in Hereford on Palm Sunday in 1951, he was buried with Elizabeth Ann and her parents. Elizabeth Ann's husband was the Revd Moses Davies BA BD, Rector of Ravendale with Hatcliffe in the Lincolnshire Wolds for 25 years, which is in an area of natural beauty. In 1942 Revd Moses Davies wrote a book entitled "The History of Grimsby". The family headstone still survives, it is now Headstone 10, on Path One, the path that leads to the John Whitworth Monument.

Brass Offertory Plate 14" diameter. Inscribed:
"Dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edith Colley died 17th December 1988.
Given by relations and friends RIP."
Frank Colley married Edith Buckley at St George's in 1937. In 1939 Frank and Edith Colley were living at 22 Mountain Street, Mossley. Frank was an assistant overseer at the cleaning depot and undertook voluntary work with the Auxiliary Fire Service, Edith was a cotton examiner and an ambulance attendant with the ARP. Frank was still living at 22 Mountain Street when he died age 82 years in 1987. Edith died age 76 years old in 1988 at The Lakes Nursing Home in Dukinfield. In 1976 Edith Colley embroidered one of the kneelers in the Mothers' Union corner.

Brass Vase Located near the Children's Corner. Inscribed: "Children's Corner.
In remembrance of our dear daughter Brenda Harrop. Died March 1948. Age 14 Years."
Brenda Harrop was born on 18 February 1934 in Mossley. She was the daughter of Samuel and Edith Mary (maiden name Kershaw). Samuel and Edith Mary had married at All Saints' in 1932. Samuel was a greengrocer and in 1939 the Harrop family were living in a shop next door to The Fleece Inn on Stamford Street, Mossley. Benda died age 14 in 1948, Samuel died age 81 in 1984, and Edith Mary died age 93 in 1995. They are all buried together in Mossley Cemetery.

Silverware

Baptismal Shell
Silverware Hallmarked London 1924. Inscribed:
"In memory of Henry C & Anne Hextall, son and daughter-in law of a former Vicar. 1876. 1921."
The box of this item says, "Presented by Minnie Hextall, Whitsuntide, 1922."
Revd Hextall was the vicar at St George's for 33 years, from 1831 —1864.
Revd Hextall's headstone at St George's is on the path that runs north to south on the far side of the graveyard. It includes the words:
"Also Maud Alice daughter of Henry Clay and Anne Hextall granddaughter of the above who departed this life on the 27th day of May 1866 aged one year and six months. Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for such is the kingdom of God. St Luke 18th Ch 16th Ver."
Henry Clay Hextall was born in 1818 in Halifax, in 1855 he married Anne Elizabeth Hyde, daughter of George, at St Michael's & All Angels in Mottram in Longdendale. Their daughter Maud Alice was born on 2 December 1864, and was baptised on 3 March 1865 at Christ Church, Islington. Maud Alice appears to be the only child of Henry Clay and Elizabeth Anne to have died in childhood. She was buried at St George's in Mossley on 1 June 1866. The burial record shows that Maud Alice's parents were resident in London.
Both of Maud Alice's grandfathers had died in 1864, and both were buried at St George's, Mossley.
Revd Hextall was buried at St George's on 24 June 1864, and George Hyde, who had lived in Moorgate, Carrbrook, Stalybridge, all of his life, was buried at St George's on 24 October 1864.
The 1861 and 1871 Census shows Henry Clay as a successful silk merchant living in the City of London.
Henry Clay died in 1876 age 58 years, and Anne Elizabeth died in 1921 age 92 years. Both buried London.
Minnie who donated the item is possibly Minnie Agnes Hextall (1867-1936), a daughter of Henry Clay.

Chalice
Silverware Hallmarked Birmingham 1849. Inscribed:
"St Augustine's Hartshead to the glory of God and in memory of Lees Hyde Marland died 18th July 1925."
Lees Hyde Marland was baptised on 2 September 1863 at St George's. His parents were John Marland, a cotton waste dealer at Brown Edge, and Betty (nee Hyde), the daughter of a farmer at Hartshead. By 1881 the Marland family were living on Turner Lane in Ashton-under-Lyne and by 1891 Lees Hyde Marland had become a waste dealer with his father. Lees Hyde Marland, a clerk in a cotton waste warehouse, married Clarissa Greaves in 1892 at St James the Apostle in Ashton-under-Lyne. He was so successful in this line of work that by 1901 Lees Hyde Marland was living at Bellfield, in the Smallshaw area, and in 1903 Lees Hyde Marland invested £200 in the Cedar Mill Company based at Hurst Cross. On 17 October 1901 Lees Hyde Marland, a cotton waste dealer of Turner Lane, was initiated into the Ashton-under-Lyne Freemason's Lodge of Fidelity. Lees Hyde Marland was only 61 years old when he died in 1925 at the Stamford Nursing Home in Ashton-under-Lyne. He left £41,000.

Ciborium
(the vessel used for the bread of the Eucharist). Silverware. Inscribed:
"In loving memory of Thomas Allardice 25-11-1924 11-11-1988."
Thomas Allardice was born in 1924 in Lanarkshire, Scotland. In 1939 Thomas, age 15 years, was living at 10 Fairfield Road, Altrincham. Thomas Allardice married Doris Smith, a woollen mender of 15 Curzon Street, Mossley, in 1947, at St George's Church, Mossley. Thomas Allardice had been living in Bredbury when he died in 1988. Doris had been living in Marple when she died in 2007.

Ciborium
(the vessel used for the bread of the Eucharist).
Silverware. Inscribed:
"In loving memory of the Reverend John Peace the Vicar of St George's Church Mossley 1969-1976."
Please see the incumbents section of this book for further details on Revd John Peace.

Silverware

Communion Set
Silverware comprising jug, goblet, and wafer tray. Inscribed: "Presented to the Revd R C Weston MA by the memoirs of Emmanuel Church and Schools Bolton 14th Sept 1867."
Robert Culpeper Weston was born in Enfield, Middlesex. He married Jane and they had several children, all of whom were born in Leeds. Son Edmund became a Captain in the Liverpool Regiment, and son Robert Ambrose became a surgeon. In 1851 Robert Culpeper was the curate at St George's in Leeds, he was living with Jane and their son Edmund. In 1861 Robert Culpeper was the vicar at Burlingthorpe in Leeds, he was living with Jane and their five children. After Jane died Robert Culpeper married Mary Ann Ormrod. In 1871 Robert Culpeper was the incumbent at the Emmanuel Church Vicarage, Cannon Street, Bolton, he was living with Mary Ann and his children. By 1881 all the children had left home and Robert Culpeper is shown as a Clerk in Holy Orders at the Emmanuel Church, living with Mary Ann. Robert Culpeper died on 22 October 1887 in Bolton. To date it is not known who donated the Communion Set to St George's.

Trowel
Silverware Inscribed: "In memory of Eliza Jackson died December 23rd 1957."
Harold Jackson married Eliza Corscadden on 18 February 1911 at St George's. The 1911 Census shows them living at 61 Old Brow, Mossley, Harold was a cotton spinner, and Eliza was employed as a Roving Frame Tenter. The 1939 Register shows them living at 48 Lorne Street, Mossley, Harold was employed as a spinning cotton master and was also undertaking the duties of a Special Constable. Eliza Jackson was 75 years old when she died in 1957. Harold was 93 years old when he died in 1975. They are buried together in Mossley Cemetery.

Wafer Box
Silverware Hallmark London 1925. Inscribed:
"Presented by John McClintock (Vicar), George Clark (Verger), Alice Shelmerdine (Cleaner) 1954."
The incumbent at St George's at this time was Revd John Bickley M A.

Metal Cross Inscribed: "In Memory of Jean Pollard."
Jean Pollard was only 14 years old when she died in Mossley in 1946. She was born in Mossley in 1931, and she was the only child of Charles and Lucy (nee Mosley). Jean was buried at St George's Church, she lies with her Mosley grandparents, Henry and Ann, and two of her Mosley aunts. The white upright headstone upon which she is commemorated still survives and is located to the left of the path that leads to the John Whitworth memorial. A separate black upright headstone commemorates Jean's uncle Frank Mosley. Another separate white upright headstone commemorates Jean's uncle Charles Mosley who served during the Great War with the Royal Field Artillery, and her cousin Geoffrey Mosley who died at the age of 19 whilst serving with the Royal Air Force during World War Two. Geoffrey was buried at St George's and although his is not a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial he is commemorated on St George's World War II War Memorial, and on the Ashton Grammar School War Memorial which is currently housed at Portland Basin Museum. Jean's parents are buried in Mossley Cemetery. Her father Charles died age 67 years in 1958, and her mother died age 91 years in 1985.
Right: Jean Pollard age 9 years.

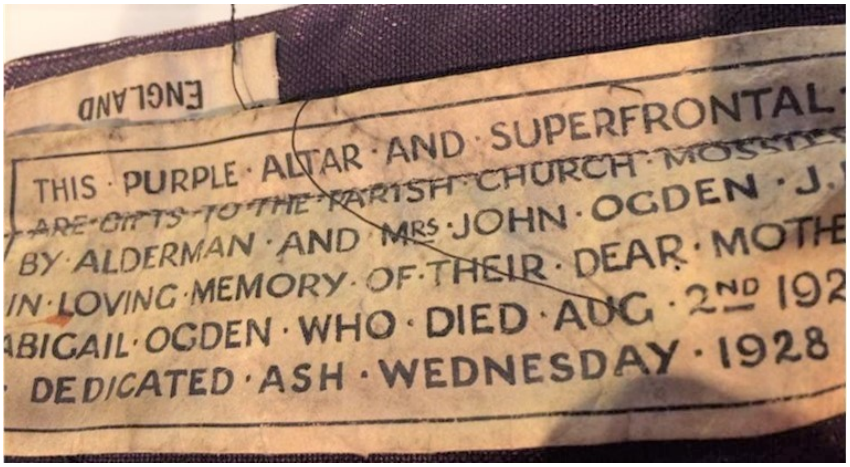


Textiles

Textiles
On the purple altar and superfrontal: Inscribed:
“This purple altar and superfrontal are gifts to the parish church of Mossley from Alderman and Mrs John Ogden JP in loving memory of their dear mother Abigail Ogden who died Aug 2nd 1927.
Dedicated Ash Wednesday 1928.”
(a purple Altar frontal and superfrontal are used at Advent and Lent)

Abigail Ogden had only been married for six years when she was made a widow in 1887, and at the time she had four sons, all aged five years and under.
These sons, including John, would have had great affection for their mother who brought them up alone under difficult circumstances.
Son John was married to Florence Gorst Combs in 1908 at St George’s by Revd Bagott.
At the time John’s occupation was "Salesman".
The 1911 Census shows John, employed as cotton weaving clerk, living with Florence, and his brother Edwin, and his mother Abigail, at 1 Egerton Street, Mossley.
John started his business as a yarn merchant in Mossley in 1912, he later formed and became Chairman of Mossley Textiles Specialities Ltd and he helped to bring the "French" company to Mossley which then employed 800 people.
John was a Mossley Councillor for 20 years, and a Justice of the peace, he was the Mayor of Mossley 1922—23.
Abigail died in 1927, when she was 70 years of age, and she was buried at St George’s with her husband. Their headstone was removed in 1974.
The 1939 Register shows John and Florence living at Chellow Dene, at this time John was employed as a cotton cloth and yarn merchant.
John died in 1940 age 56 years. He was buried at St George’s, and his headstone has survived. It is behind the John Whitworth monument.
No flowers were allowed at John Ogden’s funeral and only men were allowed to attend.
Florence died age 66 years in 1951 in Lytham St Anne’s.







Mr. John Ogden
1922–1923

Wooden Items

Bookcase—Dr G S and Mrs Waite— in the Children's corner of the Church Room
Inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Dr G S Waite and Mrs M T Waite.
From Learning and Knowledge Stem the Fruits of Peace and Happiness."
George Stanley Waite was born on 23 December 1911 in Barbados. He studied Medicine at the University of Edinburgh from 1931. He became a GP and practised from his East View surgery, Stamford Road, Mossley. From 1958 Dr and Mrs Waite and Mr J Andrew undertook the work of maintaining the St George's Church Garden of Remembrance, Dr Waite being an authority on roses. Dr Waite died suddenly in Bakewell, on 23 December 1979, his 68th birthday. Mrs Waite died in 1986. Their ashes were scattered on the Garden of Remembrance at St George's.

Wooden Chest—Annie Yarwood—Permission to install given by William, Bishop of Manchester, 1956.
Annie Buckley was born on 15 November 1874 and she married John Yarwood, a florist, on 2 August 1898 at St George's Church. In 1901, 1911, and 1939, Annie and John Yarwood were living at 23 Stamford Street, Mossley. John was listed variously as a fruitier, greengrocer, and mainly as a master florist. John was 66 years old when he died, he was buried on 16 December 1940. Annie, of 1a Market Street, Mossley, was 79 years old when she died on 3 June 1954, she was buried on 7 June 1954. John and Annie are buried together in Grave 9, Range H, in the 1938 Ground, at St George's. Their grave is unmarked. Annie is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

Wooden Cross—John C Pickford
Inscribed:
"Made and presented to the children's corner by John C Pickford in memory of his dear wife Emma.
Also to commemorate his 70th birthday Sept 25th 1941."
John Charles Pickford was the son of John Pickford the contractor appointed to undertake the joinery work for the new St George's Church consecrated in 1882.
John Charles Pickford married Emma Marland in 1894 at St George's Church. The 1911 Census shows John Charles and Emma Pickford living at 13 George Street with their three sons. John Charles was a joiner and he employed son Fred as an apprentice. In 1911 son Harry was a cotton piecer, and son John was a scholar. During the Great War son Harry served with the Prince of Wales Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment. He was only 19 years old when he was killed in action in 1917 at "Transport Corner" near Ypres. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium and on the St George's Church War Memorial. Emma Pickford died in 1938. In 1939 John C Pickford was a master joiner, and a widower, living alone at 13 George Street, Mossley. John died in 1943. John and Emma are buried together at St George's Church. There was no headstone for John and Emma in 1974.

Wooden Cross—Emily Wyatt
Inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Emily Wyatt Died June 4th 1951 Aged 68 Years."
Emily Wright was born on 6 July 1882. She married Thomas Wyatt in 1906, at St James's Church, Millbrook. It is at St James' Church that Emily's parents and most of her siblings are buried. Emily's husband, Thomas Wyatt, was a clerk for the Mossley Co-operative Society and so Thomas and Emily lived in Mossley. By 1939 Thomas Wyatt was the Chief Clerk at the Co-operative Society. The 1939 Register shows Emily and Thomas, and three children, living at 11 Argyle Street, Mossley. Emily died in 1951 and Thomas died in 1968. They are buried together, with two infant sons, in Plot 739 in Mossley Cemetery. A headstone and kerbs mark the plot. Emily Wyatt is commemorated in the Mothers' Union Memorial Book.

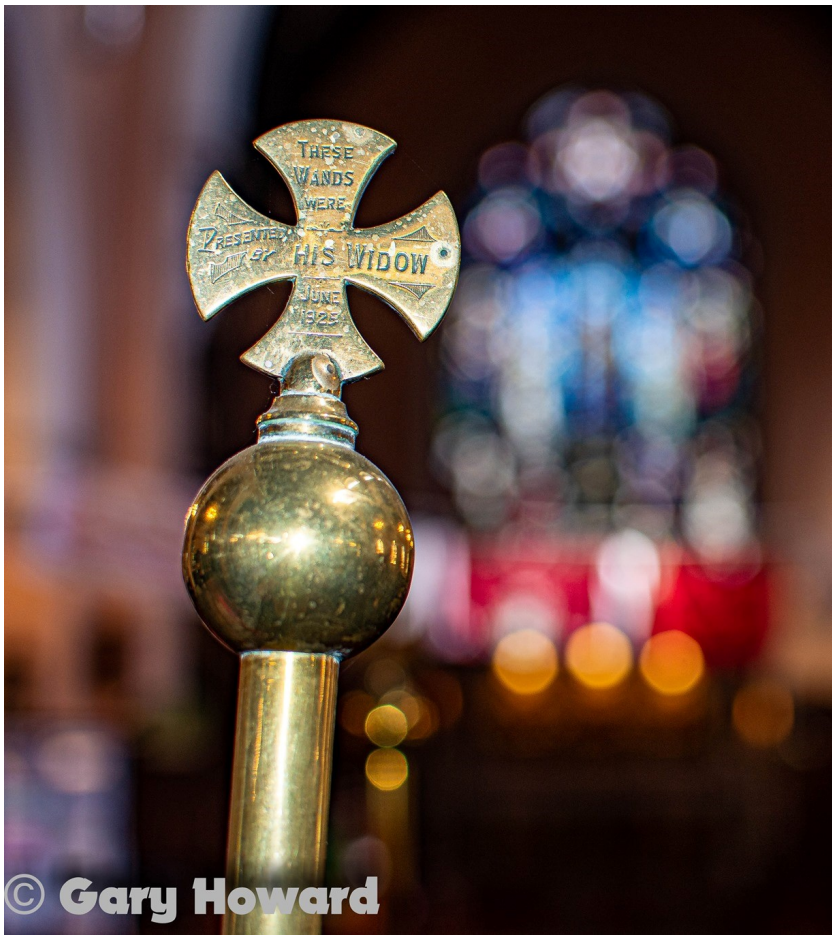


Wooden Cross—right —on or near the main Altar

Churchwarden's Staff—Joseph Broadbent Wild

Two Warden's Staves, 70" in Height.
Located towards the rear of the church.

Inscribed:
"In Memory of Joseph Broadbent Wild, Warden, 1906—1911.
These Wands Were Presented by his Widow. June 1925."



Joseph Broadbent Wilde was baptised at St George's on 13 March 1859, he was the son of a woollen weaver, and he was brought up in the Waterton Lane area. On 28 January 1880 he married Ada Ann Wrigley at St George's. They lived for many years in Mossley before relocating to Oldham. Joseph worked as an overlooker in cotton mills, and two of his daughters were confectioners, first in Mossley and then in Oldham. Both Joseph and Ada Ann were buried at St George's. Their grave is not marked.

Two Matching Flower Stands—Charles Henry Brookes Location: Either side of the High Altar
One is inscribed: "In Memory of Charles Henry Brookes Died 6 December 1969 Aged 65"
Charles Henry Brookes, was born in 1904 in Newton, his father was also named Charles Henry, and his mother was Florence. In 1911 the Brookes family were living on Percy Street, Mossley. Charles Henry Snr was a stoker at Carrbrook printworks. Florence died in 1912, and in 1915 Charles Henry Snr married Emma Buckley. Charles Henry Snr died in 1935. In 1939 Charles Henry Jnr was helping his step-mother Emma to run a grocer's shop at 19 Manchester Road, Mossley, and he was a Senior Warden in the ARP. Charles Henry Jnr married Martha Seddon White in 1943 at St George's. Charles Henry Jnr was 65 years old when he died in 1969. His ashes were scattered on the Remembrance Garden at St George's.

Two Matching Flower Stands—Jack Towle Location: Either side of the High Altar
Two: "In Memory of Jack Towle Secretary & Superintendent of Mossley Brow Died 14 April 1970 Aged 59"
Jack Towle was born in Mossley in 1910, he was the youngest of the eleven children of John Towle and Hannah (nee Hobson). The 1911 Census shows the Towle family living at 30 Back Iron Houses, Carrbrook Village. The "Iron Houses" were pre-fabricated timber and corrugated-iron accommodation erected in 1895 to house blacklegs recruited to work at the printworks when 600 regular workers went on strike for 111 days. After the settlement of the strike the workers returned at their old rate of pay and the "Iron Houses" were then used for many years to accommodate villagers. Jack married Mary Bradshaw at St George's in 1930. In 1939 Jack was living with his wife and child at 57 Old Brow, Mossley. During the war Jack was a self-employed firewood maker and seller, and he was a voluntary ambulance driver. Jack died in 1970 in Glossop.

Table side of Altar—Paul Bevan
Inscribed:
"In Loving Memory of a very dear cousin Paul Bevan Died 7 Dec 1993 Aged 34 God Bless & Keep You."

Prayer Desk—Hawkins Family

Location: Near to the stone baptismal font at the rear of the church.

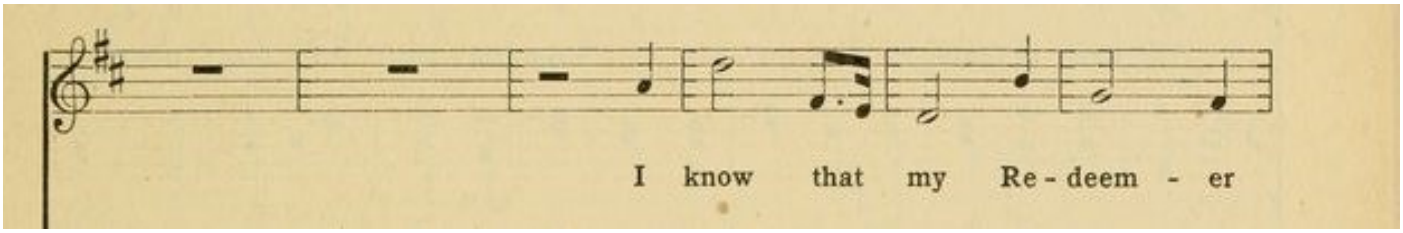


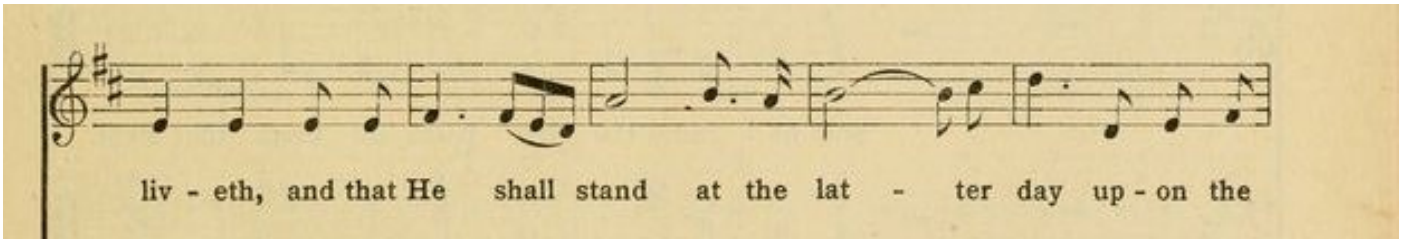
William Hawkins married Mary Prestwich at St George's on 6 May 1883.
They had two sons, Harry and Edmund, both sons were baptised at St George's.
Edmund Chapman Hawkins died in 1917 age 27, William died in 1929 age 68, and Mary died in 1940 age 78.
All three are buried together at Mossley Cemetery.
William had worked in the cotton industry before becoming a newsagent, Edmund worked as a cotton piecer.
Son Harry may have presented the Prayer Table, even though, at the time, he was an engineer / aircraft worker living in Bedfordshire.

Engraved on the family headstone in Mossley Cemetery is the music score and the opening lines of a hymn composed by George Frideric Handel in 1741 that appears in the Messiah, Part III, Scene 1:

The Promise of Eternal Life.

"I know that my Redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth"







Music Score from https://hymnary.org/
Photo of Prayer Desk by Rita Vaughan. Photo of Headstone by Kathryn Young.

Table—Mr and Mrs Howard Location: Rear of the Church, near the centre doors.



A section of the Ezra and Hannah Elizabeth Howard headstone is located next to the south perimeter wall.

This headstone states that Ezra Howard was born on 23 September 1842, and he died on 14 April 1914. Ezra Howard, of 3 Stockport Road, Mossley, was 71 years old when he was buried at St George's on 18 April 1914.

Hannah Elizabeth Howard (nee Hill) was born on 28 February 1840 and she died on 16 February 1919. She was 78 years old when she was buried at St George's, 20 Feb 1919.

At the St George's Easter Vestry Meeting in 1871 Ezra Howard was elected as a Parishioners Warden, and on Christmas Day 1971 he delivered an address at the Tea Party held in connection with St George's school.

Ezra Howard, a grocer of Quick View in Mossley, was 32 years old when he married Hannah Elizabeth Hill on 2 December 1874 at St George's. Hannah Elizabeth was a 34 year old cotton reeler living at West Cottages in Mossley. They had three children but one, Percy, died as an infant in 1877. It is not known where Percy was buried.

By 1881 Ezra had become a Bookseller and Stationer, and he and Hannah Elizabeth were living at Michael Hall in Mossley. The 1891, 1901, and 1911, Census' show Ezra as a Newsagent and Bookseller living with Hannah Elizabeth at 3 Stockport Road, Mossley. Both Kelly's and Slaters Trade Directories of 1895 show Ezra as a Bookseller and Stationer working at 3 Stockport Road, Mossley.

Ezra Howard printed the poster giving the summer 1881 timetable of Superintendents, Monitors, and Teachers at St George's Sunday School, and he printed the Hymn Booklets for the Consecration Service that was held at Mossley Parish Church on 23 November 1882.



Son Edward Stanley, and daughter Mary Annie, donated the table to St George's in July 1920 to honour the memory of their parents.

Prayer Desk—Mills Family Location: to the right of the altar at the front of the church.



Taken at face value the brass plaque upon this prayer table is a simple dedication to a husband and a son.
However when you look into the facts connected with the people named on the plaque a tale of utter tragedy is revealed.

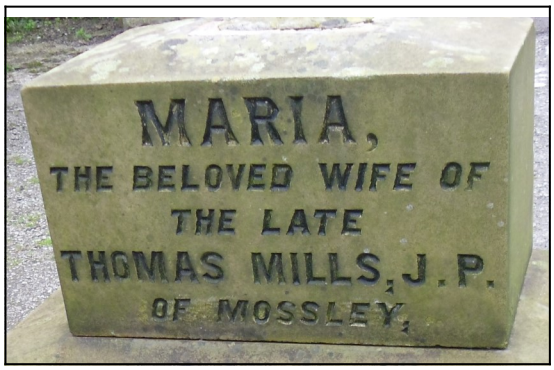


Private William Edward Mills, (photo below) had been on the borough accountant's staff at Mossley for several years. He presented himself for enlistment soon after war broke out, but was not accepted. He presented himself again late in 1915, and he arrived in France on 8 August 1916. On or after 25 September 1916 he was reported missing, presumed killed. In October 1916 Thomas Mills received unofficial news that his eldest son had been killed in action. Pte William Edward Mills, who would have reached his 21st birthday the following month, is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France, and on St George's Church War Memorial.



Thomas Mills was a JP, an overseer of the poor, Chairman of the Military Advisory Committee, the President of the Central Conservative Club, and a foundation manager of the Parish Church Day School. He had also run a Grocery business in Mossley.

Thomas Mills JP was living at Victoria House, Stockport Road, Mossley, when he received news of his son's death on the Somme and the shock was thought to have been so great, that he died of a massive stroke, just three weeks later. "The Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter" dated 21 and 28 October 1916, carried his obituary. Thomas Mills is buried with his own parents (William Edward's grandparents) and an infant sister of Thomas. The memorial inscription on the family headstone, that still stands on the east side of St George's Church, reads as : "Also Thomas their son and the beloved husband of Maria Mills who died October 17th 1916, aged 55 years. God Knows Best. Also William Edward son of the above Thomas and Maria Mills Killed in Action in France Sept 26th 1916 aged 20. He died doing his duty." Following the burial of Thomas the Mills family grave was full and so when Maria Mills died in 1924 she had to be buried in a separate grave. Her headstone can be found on the immediate right hand side of the path that leads to the John Whitworth memorial. Regrettably, since the photo of her headstone was taken, the headstone has toppled over.







↑Thorn Hill Band on Mossley Brow, Whit Friday ↑

↗ Miss Connie Walsh ↗

← Whit Walk, St George's Church, far right Mrs Joseph Taylor ←

↓ Revd John Bickley Whit Walks 26 May 1961 ↓





The Earliest Whit Walks

Sunday Schools had remedied the problem of keeping working boys from demoralising recreations on their only day off, Whit Walks was a calling together of all the children of the Sunday Schools for a Divine Service. The first Whit Walk was in Manchester in 1801, and was from St Anne's Church to the Collegiate Church (which became Manchester Cathedral in 1847) a distance of about one third of a mile. From this the tradition of Whit Walks in Manchester grew. In their heyday approaching 50,000 children from 45 parishes led by 100 bands walked in a procession that took $3^{1}/_{2}$ hours to pass any point of its route. And this was just the churches of the City of Manchester. Each town and village in the suburbs also had their own Whit Walk. The Mossley Whit Walks began in 1824. Mossley scholars were to meet at 9 o'clock in the school room, and were joined by the Stayley Wood scholars. Every scholar was provided with a glass of cordial or wine and a biscuit. The expense was paid for by the teachers and voluntary subscribers. A Divine Service was held in the forenoon. In 1825 the scholars had to be gathered by 9 o'clock, there was a spice cake and a glass of ale for each scholar. £1 8s 2d was paid to the Bull's Head for liquor, and £1 17s 7d was paid for malt and cakes. A Committee chose the hymns and tunes. (It must be remembered that at the time scholars of the Sunday School included all the unmarried young people in their 20's.) By 1835 a meal of veal, ham, oatcakes, bread, potatoes, served with butter, and salt and mustard, salad and milk was provided for the teachers and their friends. The Mossley scholars met the Stayley Wood Scholars in Carr Hill at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. The Ashton & Stalybridge Reporter dated 14 June 1862 describes that years Whitsuntide Holiday: Friends, teachers, and scholars met in St George's Chapel school-room and the free distribution of buns took place, after which they formed into procession, headed by a large blue silk banner with "St George's Sunday School, Mossley" inscribed upon it, followed by Mossley Brass Band, and the committee and officers of the school. About 80 dresses, a large number of bonnets and hats, 50 pairs of boots and shoes, and 20 pairs of trousers, together with under clothing and neckties had been distributed amongst the poorest scholars through the kindness of the charitable portion of the congregation. There were in total 930 scholars, and 162 teachers and officers. In May 1887 a Tea Party was held at St Augustine's to commemorate the purchase of a new silk banner for the school from H Whaites, of Deansgate, Manchester. One on side was "The Sower" and on the reverse was a representation of the school. By 1908 the Victorian Temperance movement were seeking a change to beverages of a non-alcoholic nature. In 1909 Immediately after Whit Friday a meeting was called, a Committee and Officers were appointed, to procure, design, and price a new banner for its public processions and services. The members were attracted by the work done at "The House of Mercy" in Horbury, Yorkshire, a home for unfortunate women. The design chosen was that of "The Good Shepherd", with the lamb and the staff of the shepherd. The four corners had a font, a door of a church, a chalice, and a crown. The banner was to be worked in silk and sewn, not painted. The banner was to cost the sum of £30. Whit Friday 1912 coincided with the 155th Anniversary of the consecration of the old Chapel. A special service was held at which hymns sung at the consecration of the present church were sung to the old tunes. The church was crowded with at least 1,000 people present. Rain prevented the service being held on the site of the old Chapel. The only recorded changes to the Mossley Whit Friday tradition was during the Great War when the processions took place without brass bands, buns, and sports. The first Mossley Whitsuntide Queen in 1929 was Miss Constance Walsh, in 1930 she was chosen as the Mossley Cotton Queen. In 1936 the Whitsun Banner had to be renovated due to damage. The figure of St George on the front was entirely reworked, and on the plain back was placed a large cross with IHS worked on a blue background. Due to the Second World War the police issued a cancellation order in 1940 and the Whit Walks were abandoned. Although the tradition did begin to decline in the post-war years over 25,000 children took part in the 150th Anniversary Procession in Manchester in 1951. Today in Mossley children still participate in the annual Whit Friday Walk. Mossley being one of the few places that still holds a good-sized traditional procession, and they usually have six bands, mainly brass, joined more recently by the children's plastic band. Whitsuntide Processions are a strong feature held on the Friday after Whit Sunday. The Walk of Witness, which allows others to witness a person's religious faith, with banners and bands and religious statues is a keenly anticipated event.
The 2020 Whit Walks were cancelled due to the Covid 19 virus pandemic.

A Timeline of Events at St George's

1755—**The First Mossley Chapel** Built in 1755 on land owned by Mr Joseph Pickford & Mr James Buckley .

1756—**Costs of Items**
Bell £15 13s 10d, carriage of same 10s 6d. Pulpit in 1756, £7 11s 6d. £1 2s 2d for the Font Cover.

4 July 1759—The First Chapel Wardens Meeting
Sixpence a seat—First Clerk, John Nield, paid for clerking, sixpence per seat.

Wednesday 13 September 1797—**A Selection of Sacred Music**
played at St George's Chapel including parts of the Messiah and Concerto's on the Oboe and the Flute.

1800—**Suit of Clothes**—For James Taylor at the expense of the Wardens

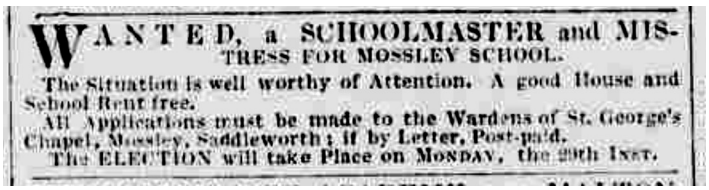
1803—**Subscription for an Organ**
Mr James Greaves elected as Treasurer for the Committee to raise such funds by Subscription.
Any surplus funds after the work is completed to be intended for the Organist Salary.

1803—July 16 – **Schoolmaster Wanted**
Wanted a Schoolmaster and Mistress for Mossley School. The Master will be required to teach the English language grammatically, writing, merchant's accounts, etc, and the Mistress to instruct the girls in reading, and plain and useful needlework. The village of Mossley is extremely populous, the schoolhouse very convenient, and there is also accommodation for a few boarders. Applications to the Trustees.

1806—**Organist Salary**
A Vestry Meeting agreed to pay an organist, when elected, not less than ten guineas annually.

1811—**Warden's Accounts**
To Samuel Whitworth for playing the Organ from Aug 1810 to April 1811, £3 3s 0d.

1834—**Wanted—**
A Schoolmaster and Mistress for Mossley
A good house and School Rent Free.
Applications to the Warden, St George's Chapel.


WANTED, a SCHOOLMASTER and MISTRESS FOR MOSSLEY SCHOOL.
The Situation is well worthy of Attention. A good House and School Rent free.
All Applications must be made to the Wardens of St. George's Chapel, Mossley, Saddleworth; if by Letter, Post-paid.
The ELECTION will take Place on MONDAY, the 20th INST.

2 July 1836—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser
Auction at the Highland Laddie Wednesday 20 July 1836
Lot 10: Two Pews in the middle aisle of St George's, being numbered 29 and 57 in the occupation of Benjamin Kay and John Roylance.

July 1844—**Sacrilege**
During the night the church was entered and twelve books, with the words "Mossley Church" upon them, a looking glass, and other property were stolen. The robbery was not found until the Sunday morning when the church was opened but it is supposed to have been committed during the Friday evening when the church was open for the ringing of the bells.

6 March 1852—Huddersfield Chronicle—**The Holmfirth Calamity**
On the afternoon of Sunday last, the Revd Mr Hextall, the worthy incumbent of St George's Chapel, Mossley, preached on behalf of the sufferers of the recent calamity at Homfirth, the great flood that occurred on 5 February 1852 in which eighty-one people lost their lives and many more were left homeless and without work. At collection raised the handsome sum of £18 for the relief fund.

9 August 1851—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser

Testimonial of Respect to a Clergyman

The curate of Mossley, was presented with a case containing a handsome pocket communion service, and also the sum of £20, on the occasion of his being called to the ministry in another portion of the country. The following inscription is on the plate of the communion service, "Presented with a sum of money to the Revd William Rothery by a number of the congregation of St George's Chapel, Mossley, as a token of their esteem for the faithful discharge of his duties as curate, for upwards of three years—1851."

15 September 1855—The Ashton Weekly Reporter—**Victory in the Crimea**

In celebration of the Allies great victory in the Crimea flags were displayed at various manufactories, three small cannon near Mossley Railway station loaded and discharged, and the single bell at St George's Chapel sent forth the merriest of peal it was capable of.

1857—**Ephraim Moss**

became a schoolmaster at Mossley Parish Church School.

(*One of his famous verses is "Stalybridge Market on a Saturday Night."*
His poems regularly appeared in "The Reporter" from 1866.)

1 January 1859—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser

The Annual Christmas Tea Party

Nearly 1,000 sat down to tea in the National School Room on Christmas Day, The Mossley Temperance Band performed with great effect. The teachers and scholars singing and reciting enlivened the meeting.

28 December 1861—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser

The National Bereavement

On Monday evening a special service was held in St George's Chapel, Mossley, expressing sympathy with the Queen. The church was crowded, many having to sit on the stairs. The sermon preached by Revd John C Macdona MA, from Samuel was "Know yea not that there is a prince and a great man fallen on this day." He then spoke of the different instances of national mourning in the Old Testament, and how the Prince was a great student of the arts and sciences, a musician, a poet, a speaker, a husband, and father.

11 April 1863—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser

Presentation of a Testimonial

A presentation of a testimonial which consisted of a handsome pocket communion service and the works of the English Puritan divines in six volumes has been made to Revd J C Macdona MA who is leaving the neighbourhood. The following inscription is engraved on the plate, "Presented to the Revd John Cumming Macdonna MA on his leaving the curacy of St George's Chapel, Mossley, by the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School as a token of their respect and esteem. April 6th 1864."

4 April 1865—Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser

Intended Sale of the Living of Ashton-under-Lyne

The rectory of the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne is to fall under the auctioneer's hammer in June. There is a rectory house and garden, with an income of £1,112 13s 3d per annum. The age of the current rector, Rev George Chetwode, is seventy-three. The patron of the living who wishes to sell is the Earl of Stamford and Warrington. The rectory of Ashton-under-Lyne embraces the patronage of the perpetual curacies of New St George's in Stalybridge, St George's in Mossley, St Peter's in Ashton-under-Lyne, and St John's, Hey, near Lees.

The highest bidder came nowhere near the sum required and the Parish remained unsold.

Rev Chetwode died in 1870, the Earl of Stamford nominated Rev Thomas T Eager MA, who was formally induced on Christmas Eve 1870.

12 December 1868—The Reporter

Committal of Mossley Schoolmaster

Ephraim Moss, the Secretary to the Saddleworth (No 7) District of the Order of Druids, a Friendly Society, and the schoolmaster of Mossley, was charged with embezzlement, of obtaining £7 18s from the Friendly Society to pay printing costs of £7 17s, and pocketing the 1s difference. This was just one item in a total of £30 worth of falsifications in the books. Ephraim was in the habit of destroying vouchers once an audit had taken place and so was unable to produce evidence in regards to the accuracy of the transactions made. To a Magistrate Ephraim stated that about Mossley Wakes times were very bad and he was unable to repay the monies. In January 1869 Ephraim Moss was found guilty and sentenced to six months with hard labour.

Ephraim Moss, born in Dukinfield in 1818, married Betty in 1841, she died in 1850. Married Ann in 1852. A teacher at the Mossley New Connexion Methodist School in 1852, living in Baguley, Lydgate; 1855 a teacher at Dobcross Infant School; 1857 became schoolmaster at Mossley Parish Church School. *1869 given 6 months hard labour for embezzlement. By December 1870 Ephraim Moss was a schoolmaster living on Bentinck Street in Ashton-under-Lyne. In the 1871 Census he is shown as single, working as a teacher, and lodging at 101 Bentinck Street. His second wife and his children were living separately on Turner Street in Ashton. Ephraim died in 1874 and was buried at Christ Church in Ashton. As a result of the embezzlement Ephraim lost his wife, his children, his home, his job, and the hard labour caused him severe health problems.*

Right:
St George's School House

Used by the First Headmaster
Bernard Slading de Beau
from 1873—1885.

Then the property became
the caretaker's house.



Rev Francis P H Powell M A—Curate of Mossley 1867 to 1871

Francis P H Powell had been born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1843. He gained his M A at University College, Durham. In 1871 Rev Francis Percy Hutcheson Powell was the Curate of Mossley and was lodging at the Sandbed home of John Webster. John and his wife Rebecca were buried at St George's in 1872 and 1877 respectively. Their headstone was removed in 1974. When Rev Powell left Mossley in 1871 he was presented with a pocket communion and a purse of £20. Rev Powell married in Dublin in 1887. After this Rev Powell lived and worked, in Devon in 1891, and Essex in 1901, he died in Cork in 1914.

1874

Additional Land for New Church and Churchyard

Instrument recording Consecration signed by James, Bishop of Manchester

Please see the accompanying book "Guided Tour of St George's Churchyard" for further information

1879

New St George's Church

Deposited in the cavity a bottle containing an account of the proceedings of the laying of the foundation stone, a few coins of the realm, and the local papers, The Ashton Reporter, the Ashton Standard, the Manchester Courier, and the Manchester Guardian.

24 November 1882—The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser

Consecration of St George's Church

The newspaper tells us that at the consecration of St George's Church: open pine benches were used for seating purposes; there was an eagle lectern, and choir seats; the Sarah Beswick window, and the John and Thomas Beswick window, were the two *pretty* stained glass windows that had already been placed in the south aisle by the time St George's Church was consecrated.

16 September 1885—Huddersfield Chronicle

Church Parade

The band of the corps from Dobcross played the Mossley Company of Volunteers to St George's church on Sunday, and after hearing an appropriate sermon were marched back to the new drill shed.

23 April 1887

Parish Church Reopens

After being closed for a short while St George's Church reopened after the reredos had been added. The walls and ceiling have been elaborately decorated.
Everyone is looking forward to the splendour of the surplice choir.
The women of the parish provided a new Altar Frontal.

4 March 1871—The Reporter

The District Infirmary

A Collection at St George's, Mossley, raised £12 18s 1d, for The District Infirmary.

19 August 1871—The Reporter

Picnic

A number of the teachers and scholars belonging to St George's and the Mossley Brow Branch Church Schools had a pic-nic in Oldham Park, where a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

St George's School

1890—103 children absent from school due to measles.
1893—The vicar provided a dinner for over 60 of the poorer children
1902—School closed for the whole of the week for the coronation of King George V
1907—Gas lighting was replaced by electricity
1933—Plans Drawn Up For Alterations to School

1902 **New Vicarage**

The new Vicarage on Stamford Road has been completed. The old one condemned as unhealthy.

7 October 1903—Manchester Evening News

Sacrilege at Mossley

St George's Church, Mossley, was broken into last night or early this morning, by marauders. Two bottles of wine were taken, the offertory box was smashed open, entry was gained through the vestry window and the vestry was ransacked. The vicar has placed the matter in the hands of the police.

1907—**Decoration of the Church**

The whole of the church, inclusive of the roof panels and rafters have been cleaned, and painted in oil colours in shades of grey and warm tints of stone colour.
The walls of the nave, chancel and aisles were richly decorated.
On either side of the east window are the Crucifixion and the Resurrection murals.
The side walls contain figures of Saints:
Archangels Gabriel and Raphael; the Patron Saints St George and St Michael;
the Apostles Peter and Paul; the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah; the Martyrs Ambrose and Augustine.
Along the centre aisle of the church, in the spaces above the pillars are eight coats of arms:
on the south side St George, Ashton-under-Lyne, the Manchester Diocese, and the Archbishop of York;
on the north side Mossley, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire.
Over the gallery at the west end is the emblem of Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
All of this work was undertaken by Mr Powell and his assistant Mr Batty.



1907 The new Mosaic Pavement round the font was paid for by Mrs Hall, widow of Revd Anthony Hall.
Electric Lighting was installed by local firm Messrs Holmes of Mossley.
A new piano was purchased for £31 and a harmonium was purchased for £6 6s.

1907—**Parish Magazines** Mr John Robinson and Mrs Platt, of Abney Road, donated copies of the early editions of the Parish Magazines. These have now been bound, and there is nearly a complete set from the first edition published in January 1888.

1912 **A Sealed Envelope System for collecting** Weekly Offerings was introduced.

1913 the **Parochial Church Council** was formed.

1914 **Pew Rents** have been reduced by a shilling per seat, to encourage a larger number to take sittings.

1916— **Lighting Restrictions** are in force due to the War. Evensong was moved forward to 3.15 pm.

1917— **Long Service Award** Mrs Jackson awarded a long service medal in recognition of 50 years' service as a teacher at the Parish Church Sunday School.

1911 Coronation Day Procession

On Thursday 22 June 1911 there was a procession of Mossley's Sunday Schools, starting from the market ground, with Mossley Brass Band, the Crompton Brass Band, the Halliwell Brass Band, and the Roaches Lad's Fife and Drum Band. The procession was a long one, numbering about 3,000 people. Special features of the procession were HMS Dreadnought sailors with a large cannon, Britannia with her attendants, and a representation of the nations, including India and Australia, South African Miners, and dairy maids of Canada. Banners with pictures of King George V and Queen Mary, and the Pope, were carried. In the procession were several councillors and JP's. In the afternoon each school of the borough had field sports, after which teas were provided in all the various schools, and medals were awarded to the scholars. The Mossley Brass Band played dance and other music in the park from 3 pm to 5 pm, and from 7 pm to 9 pm.



1924— Aug 2nd—**Retirement of Headmaster Mr James Finch JP**

Mr James Finch, JP, Headmaster St George's School, retired after 35 years' service.

1924— Oct 1st —**Samuel Holdsworth Clough appointed as Head Teacher** of St George's C of E School.

1924— Dec 2nd —**Mabel Eleanor Carruthers appointed as Head Teacher** of St George's C of E School.

1926—**66th Easter Communion**

Mrs A Heys, Albion Street, attended her 66th Easter Communion without a break in April 1926. First she was taken by her grandfather, Mr Robert Buckley Parish Clerk, till his death in the 1950's, his father before him had been Clerk for 50 years. Mrs Heys first Communion was when Rev Hextall was the Vicar, and she took Easter Communion under five subsequent vicars, including Rev Hands.

1928—June 28th—**Death of Mr James Finch JP** ex-headmaster of St George's School.

1929—**Improvements**

The heating of the church was improved. The gates on the west side were widened to allow carriages and carts to approach the church without having to pass through the school yard.

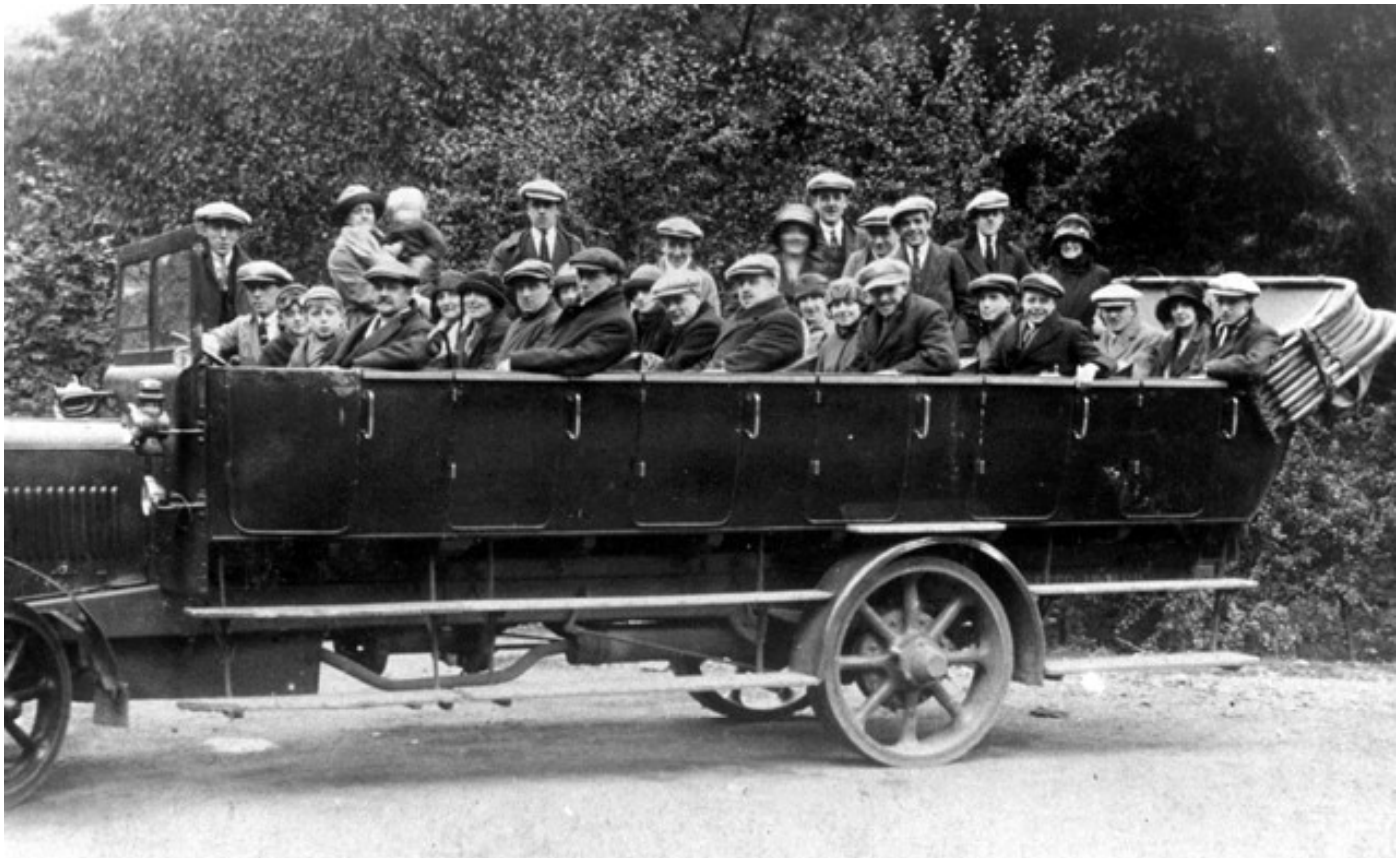
The Vicarage Garden

Rev Moses Davies, the young man stood directly underneath the tree in the centre of the back row, was the Curate at St George's from 1908 until 1914.

Sat in the centre of the front row is Revd Charles H Bagott Vicar at St George's 1902 until 1925.



St George's Church, Guild of St George charabanc outing circa 1924

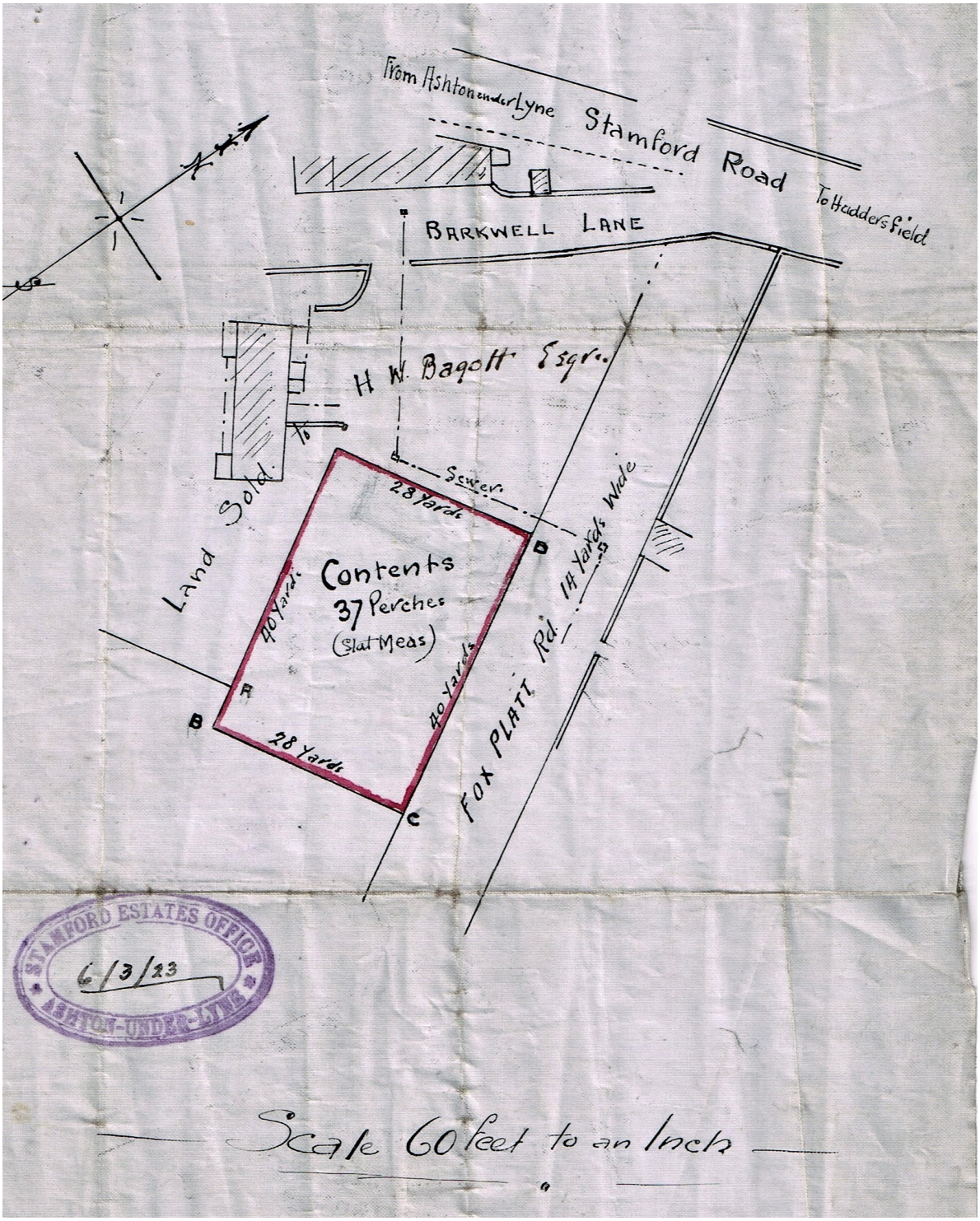




1923

Left: The opening of the
Parish Rooms on the Guild Pitch,
with
Curate Rev W J Meers
John Ogden Mayor of Mossley 1922-1923
Bishop William Temple
Vicar Rev C H Baggott

Below:
The original document from when the Guild Pitch was purchased for the Church whilst Rev Baggott was Vicar.



1932

50th Jubilee of the Consecration of the Church.

A special Jubilee Fund raised £576 2s 3d, and monies were spent on ridge tiles, windows, pointing, slates, gutters, lead flashing. A beam was found to contain dry rot and was cured. Wire guards protecting the stained glass were repaired and painted with two coats of lead paint, as well as the iron railings of the western Churchyard wall. Two entrance doors were closed, including one of the west end doors. New heating was installed in the porch. The whole of the electric lighting was renewed.

8 September 1934—Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail

Child of Parish Clergyman Christened

The infant son of Revd H Dawson, the curate at St George's Church, was christened at St George's Church. This is the first time in a 100 years that the child of a clergyman in the parish has been christened at the St George's. The godmother of the child was Mrs Clarke, wife of the Revd Ernest Bradshaw Clarke, the vicar. This was also the first time in the history of the present church that a christening had taken place during an evening service, though when the old church existed such ceremonies were fairly frequent.

26 March 1937—The Reporter

Never Absent or Late for Nearly Eleven Years

James Connley of 76 Stamford Street, Mossley, started to attend St George's School in May 1926, when he was three years and three months old, and has never been absent or late on a single occasion since. He has made a perfect attendance for ten years and ten months. James possessed four medals awarded by the Mossley Education Committee. He was awarded a bronze medal for 1927-28, a silver medal with a gold centre for 1928-29, a silver medal with the Borough Coat of Arms for 1929-30, and a gold medal for 1930-31. By completing another year's perfect attendance James has qualified for a sixth bar to his gold medal. In addition each year James has received attendance prizes including books, a silver watch and chain, and a statue with a fish globe attached. His schooldays officially come to an end at Easter. James was formerly a member of St George's Cubs, and he is a Sunday School Scholar at St Augustine's.

14 July 1939—Manchester Evening News

Missed School Once in 11 Years

Fourteen year old May Birch, of West Cottages, leaves St George's Day School today. She has attended since she was three years old, and attended for more than ten years without being absent or late on a single occasion. A few months ago, when she twisted her foot playing netball, she only missed one half day. Mossley Education Committee have awarded her four medals and six gold bars. May started school on 29 April 1929 and reached her fourteenth birthday on 16 May. She is due to start work at Messrs Robert Hyde Buckley's Woodend Mill.

1940

Danger of Air Raids

At the July meeting of the council a suggestion was made that all stained glass windows in the church should be boarded up as a protection against bomb blast. In February the Lenten Services were held in the Central School, and in November, owing to the "Black Out" regulations, Evensong took place in the church at 3.00 pm on Sundays. Mossley Home Guard held their first Church Parade at St George's on 1st November, the parade started at the Drill Hall. 1940 saw the removal of cast iron railings from the top of the wall for the War Effort.

1940

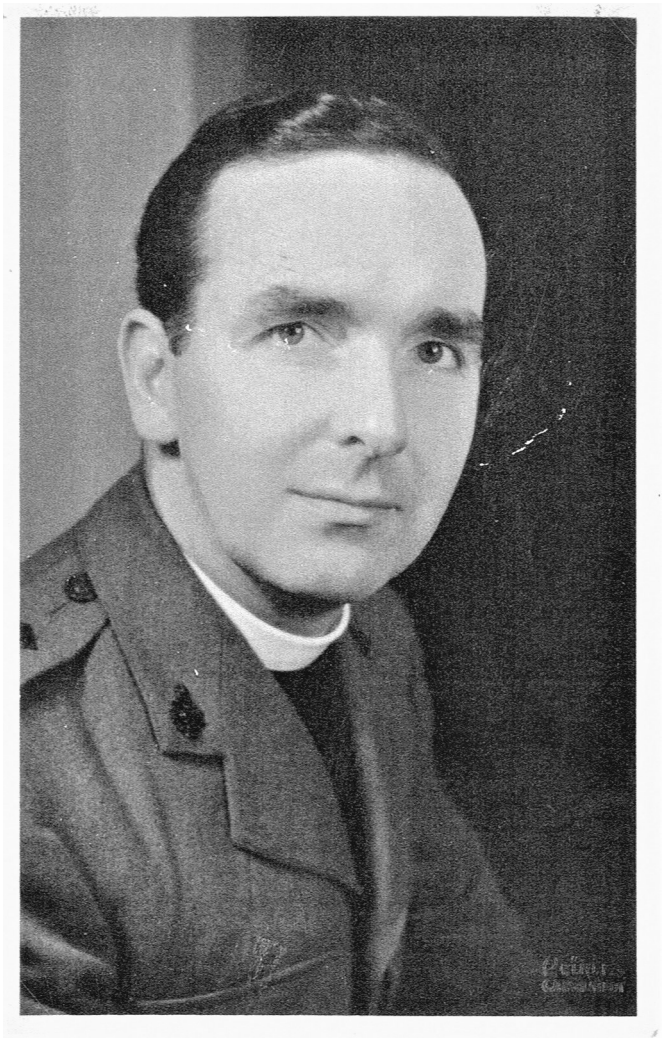
Parish Magazines

The first three bound volumes of the Parish Magazine for the years 1885—1901 are missing.
No-one seems to know if the Parish Magazine started in 1885 or 1888.
(2020—Today the collection of Parish Magazines starts at 1902, and 1910 and 1920 are missing.)

1941

Chaplain in the RAF

Early in 1941 Revd J F Southworth BD left Mossley to become Chaplain in the RAF.
Revd F R Jeremiah BA was his successor as Curate, then in 1942 he moved to Bradford in Manchester.
The next Curate was Revd G U Wilkinson who helped start the Boys Guild.



Left: Revd G U Wilkinson Curate-in-Charge 1943—1946

In 1943 Revd Wilkinson wrote In the Parish Magazine about how he strongly disapproved of the practise of "Morbid Funeral Watchers", those who attended the funerals of people they were not related to, who do not enter the church, but just stand in the churchyard staring vulgarly. The story was repeated in the Manchester Evening News.

George Unsworth Wilkinson was born on 11 January 1911, he was the son of a farmer. In 1911 the Wilkinson family were living at The Manor House in Astley, Lancashire. In 1939 George Unsworth was a Theological Student living with his parents at 1 Rose Cottage, Astley, in Tyldesley. George Unsworth studied in Durham. In 1944, whilst at Mossley, he became engaged to Helen Muriel Hudson the daughter of Revd Hudson of Stannington Vicarage.

Revd G U Wilkinson died in 1989 in Norfolk.

1946 **Service of Commemoration**

A large congregation at St George's paid tribute to those who had given their lives during the war.

1957

The Bi-Centenary

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the consecration of St George's a celebration service was held at the church. In attendance was Revd Canon C Lamont, M A, Rector and Rural Dean of Ashton-under-Lyne, and the Right Revd W D L Greer, D D, Lord Bishop of Manchester.

13 September 1958

Bell Ringers Day

As a way of raising some monies towards the £150 cost to repair the Clock at St George's the Bell Ringers of St George's sold copies of a dialect poem, written by D S Smith of Darwen, entitled "Bell Ringers Day", for 3d. Another fund raising effort on the same day was "a mile of pennies" all round the outside and inside of the church. Refreshments were on sale as well, and at night there was a whist drive.

1959

The Western Entrance

The appearance of the western entrance to the church was greatly improved by the handsome gates, given in memory of Robert and Lucy Wild, which were dedicated on 14 June 1959.

1962 **New Hymn Books Introduced** "Hymns Ancient and Modern"

1963 **New Lighting System**
A new lighting system has been installed in the church at the cost of £800. A gift of £180 was given by Mrs R Clayton for the lighting in the Chancel in memory of her husband Mr George Clayton.

1965 **The church was redecorated** At the cost of £1,350. This is when the 1907 murals were painted over.

1968 **Centenary Service at St George's**
The centenary of the Prince Albert Lodge of Freemason's conducted a service at St George's and a bronze plaque was unveiled.

1972 **New Playing Area**
A playing area, landscaped with trees and grass, has been created, on the site of the former Guild Hut.

March 1976
A form of **Double Glazing**, which also gives the stained glass windows some protection, using Perspex, was undertaken by DIY enthusiasts at the Church. £609 was raised after an appeal.

1977 **Mossley Brow Sunday School Centennial**

1978 **A New Flag and Banner** A new St George's Flag, and a new Mother's Union Banner

1979 **New Amplification System** installed in the church. The cost of £350 to be paid from the £600 donated to St George's from the Mossley Brow Committee. The remaining £250 to be used to help defray the cost of repairs to the Tower.

1980 **The Church Room**
Created under the west end balcony, a new Children's area has been created. This work was completed by H Ashton of Glossop. Since then a carpet has been added and a kitchen has been fitted, and café styled tables and chairs purchased.

1982 **Centenary of the New St George's Church**
The programme for the weeks' commemoration included: a Vicars Gift Day, Services, a Eucharist, Morris Men performing in the Day School, Mothers' Union Festival, a Marriage Re-union Service for all members of the families, Men's Society Musical Evening, a Hoe Down in the Day School, a Dance at George Lawton Hall—Tickets £1.50 for Adults and 75p for Children, and a Thanksgiving Service.

1989 **The Disabled WC and The Balcony**
Plans drawn up by A J Howcroft, Chartered Architects, Hollins Lane, Greenfield, for the demolition of the outside toilets and the creation of an indoor disabled access WC, with heating, and a wash-hand basin. Plans also drawn up by A J Howcroft for the creation of two rooms, one on each side of the balcony.

2012 **Visit of Bishop Nigel**
Bishop Nigel of Manchester, in his retiring year, visited every church in his diocese, with an Olympic Torch. As part of his visit a time capsule was buried, within the grounds of St George's, inside were items donated by the Youth Group: newspapers, coins, stamps, photographs of Whit Friday, and letters from the children.

2019 **Improvements** to the entrance and lighting.

2020 **Maintenance of the churchyard and boundary walls** formally taken over by TMBC.

Social Entertainment Down The Years

A Fiddling Fantasy
comedy and laughter, a cast of only actresses,
playing both the male and female roles,
at St George's Church circa 1930's

The King of Kandy
a bright operetta,
music, singing, dancing, and humour,
at St George's Church circa 1940's

The Outsider
The Dramatic Society had been entertaining parish audiences for many years. This 1938 Production was one of the Society's best !!!

The Barratts of Wimpole Street
The Dramatic Society's 1939 Production was even more successful than their 1938 entertainment !!!

The Pageant of Noble Women
The Mothers' Union presentation of 1956: influential women through the ages, in the Bible, champions, pioneers, emancipators, leaders, and life savers.

The Pageant of The Prayer Book
The Mothers' Union presentation of 1957: A Presentation of a Devotional Nature, with the Mothers' Union Choir. Opening Hymn "How Sweet The Name of Jesus Sounds"

The Married Ladies gave an excellent concert in 1927 entitled "Ye Olde Village Wedding"

Mossley Brow Quintet
Photographed around the beginning of the 20th century.

Mossley was known to have a very high standard of music in the church.
On 31 July 1785 at St George's Chapel the "Sacred Oratorio of Jephthah" was performed.
At that time Mossley Chapel did not have an organ.
On 9 October 1776 the same piece had been performed at St John's, Hey,
and they had accompaniment from an organ, a violin, a violoncello, kettledrums, and a trumpet.



MOSSLEY PARISH CHURCH.

Vicar: Rev. J. Bickley, M.A

Organist: Mr. G. M. Wrigley

Enrolling Member: Mrs. H. C. Caven

THE MOTHERS' UNION

will present

THE PAGEANT OF NOBLE WOMEN

In ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 20th, 1956

and

THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1956

Commence 7.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME

HYMN AND PRAYER

"Fight the Good Fight"—Hymn No. 401

Introduction H. C. Caven
Dreamer M. Lees
Spirit of the Ages F. Buckley

Group 1—**Bible Characters**

Miriam M. Ward
Deborah F. Morris
Naomi A. Buckley
Ruth M. Mosley
Orpah J. Shaw
Woman of Samaria E. Higgins
Mary Magdalene H. Buckley
Lydia A. M. Taylor

Group 2—**Champions of Freedom and Liberty**

Boadicea M. Andrew
Margaret Wilson E. Hancock
Madam Roland E. Ogden
Lady Jane Grey G. Baxendale
Harriet B. Stowe A. Lees

Group 3—**Pioneers of Christianity**

Bertha, Queen of Kent E. Bardsley
Genevieve E. Halliwell
Monica N. Walker
Susannah Wesley N. Lees
Catherine Booth C. Taylor
Mary Slessor M. Bradshaw
Children Eric Dransfield and Peter Marriott

Group 4—**Emancipators of Women**

Hypatia A. Ross
Charlotte Bronte M. C. Dransfield
Mary Somerville H. Mullaney
Jenny Lind M. Towle
Mary Wolstencroft G. Meakin

Group 5—**Women of Great Renown**

Queen Elizabeth I. H. Walker
Joan of Arc E. Colley
Frances R. Havergal F. Ashworth
Edith Cavell D. Frost
Lena of Athens A. Howard
Elizabeth Barrett Browning E. Simm

Group 6—**Life Savers**

Grace Darling E. Birchall
Sister Dora E. Ogden
Florence Nightingale M. Hamer
Sister Annie M. Grady
Agnes Weston M. Davies
Alice, Countess of Lisle F. Wadsworth

Group 7—**Famed for Love and Purity**

Margaret of Scotland E. Eastwood
Elizabeth Fry M. Brookes
Josephine Butler E. Pickles
Helen Keller D. Towle
Queen Victoria C. Byrom

Group 8—

Mother L. Wolstenholme
Daughter A. Fallows
Mary Sumner H. C. Caven

FINALE

"The Church's One Foundation"—Hymn No. 553



Above: St George's Church - dancing troupe - circa 1900

Below: St. Georges Church Pantomime, Humpty Dumpty, 1956

Rear Row: ? Alice Mayall, Joyce Taylor, Susan Buckley, ? ? ? Olive Foster, Joyce Woodings
4th Row: Phillip Andrew, Marjorie Holt, Shirley Atkinson, Dorothy Lees, ? ? David Fallows ? ?
3rd Row: ? ? Audrey Nield, Pat Howard, ? Celia Wadsworth, ? Robbie Buckley, ?
2nd Row: ? ? ? Gwendoline Buckley, Kathleen Taylor, Kathleen Delaney, ? ?
Front Row: ? Marilyn Murphy, ? Christine Wall, Vicky Robinson, Susan Taylor,
Alison Woods, ? Jillian Buckley, Jacquelin Wall



Organised Groups Within The Church

1851 St George's Sunday School Mutual Improvement Society

1860 Mossley Church Defence Association

1877 Mossley Brow Cricket Club formed.

1905 A Church Lads Brigade was formed in January, Mr Fred Hall being the Captain.
Their first parade was on Saturday 15 April, they marched to Hey Heads with a bugle band.

1912 The Church had its own cricket team, medals were presented to the players by the vicar

1908 The Church of England Men's Society opened a branch at St George's

1920 The Guild of St George, was formed to provide recreation for Church Lads (age 13 to 18 years). A football team was formed, physical training took place on Thursday evenings. It was hoped to form cycling, rambling, and swimming clubs later. The following month a Guild Room was created under the church in which meetings could be held.
About the same time St Mary's Guild for Girls was formed, taking the place of the earlier Young Women's Communicants Guild. A tennis club was formed and played near Seel Fold.

1921 The St George's Guild and The St Mary's Guild obtained banners. *(now on display, north wall.)*

1921 A Guild Room was opened in Nield Street. It was open every night (except Wednesdays) from 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm, and every Saturday 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm.

1922 Mossley Brow Sunday School Football Club was formed. Mr Towle bought the football kits, footballs, and even the goalposts.

1923 Land was rented, and an old army hut was purchased for £42 for the use of the Guilds and the Parish in general. (*the area is now the fenced all-weather pitch for St George's School.)*

1926 In January a Brownie pack was started under Brown Owl Miss M White, who later became Mrs M Brookes. Later that year the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts were formed.
The Children's Corner was dedicated on Sunday 5 December.

1927 The "Married Ladies" of the Central School gave an excellent Tea Party, and a Concert entitled "Ye Old Village Wedding". The Mossley branch of the Mothers' Union was founded.

1928 A Wolf Pack was started.

1934 The Legendary Guild Football Club won three cups, a shield, and three sets of medals.

1936 The St George's and St Mary's Guilds were disbanded.

1937 The Mossley Brow Cricket Club has played for 60 years.

1938 A Badminton Club was formed as a social activity. *(the club continued until the 1960's)*

1939 The production of the Dramatic Society was "The Barratts of Wimpole Street"
They entertained Parish audiences for many years

1943 Curate Revd G U Wilkinson BA helped to start the Boys Guild, which contained a craft section, and undertook sports, games, gymnastics, drama, and a guild band. There was also an allotment and produce was sold to raise funds. An excellent "A Dig For Victory" effort.

1944 The young ladies changed the name of their organisation to the St Mary's Guild and took communion of the first Sunday in each month
A Ranger Company was formed in the Girl Guides

1952 A Girls Club was formed, mainly for teenagers, table tennis one of the main activities.

1954 A Boys Club was formed by Mr Beadle. Activities included darts and table tennis and rambles over the moors. This club continued until 1956.

1956 The Pantomime this year was "Humpty Dumpty" produced for the cost of £50

1957 A Scout Troup was founded by Mr Norm Leighton assisted by Mr R Peters

1958 A pack of cubs were formed in November by Mrs Hallawell

1964 Brownie Pack formed by Mrs Mary Towle at Mossley Brow Sunday School
(Mrs McNulty took over the leadership when Mrs Towle retired)

1965 The following organisations were in existence: Badminton Club, Military Whist Drives, Guides and Brownies, Sewing Party, Guild of St Mary, Dramatic Society, Pantomime Society Mother's Union, Sale of Work Committee, Mossley Brow Cricket Club,

1969 The Young Wives organisation was formed

1971 Girl Guide Troop formed at Mossley Brow Sunday School



Above: **St George's Church Cricket Team circa 1905**. On the far left of the front row is Joseph Taylor, and on the far right of the second row, with the bat, is Harold Jackson.

Below: **St George's Church Boys Brigade in 1906**. In 1905 the Church Lads Brigade was formed with Mr Fred Hall as the Captain, one of their activities was the training of the Bugle Band. The Boys Guild was formed in 1943 and encouraged activities such as crafts, sports, games, gymnastics, and drama. In 1920 the Guild of St George for Church Lads was formed. The St Mary's Guild for Girls was formed in the 1920's







Above:
St George's scouts and cubs early to middle 1920's.
Back row 3rd from the right is Harold Woods who, as an adult, in the 1980's, transferred artefacts to St George's from St Augustine's when it closed down.

Left:
St George's Cubs 1959
Beryl Halliwell Leader

Phillip Andrew was a Queen's Scout at St George's he later became headmaster at Dayncourt Comprehensive School in Newark.



Right: **Rose Queen attendant on Whit Friday**
at Mossley Brow Church and Sunday School

Sources

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Stories About Mossley	Rita Vaughan
The Story of Mossley	Alfred Holt
Tameside MBC Image Archives	Local Studies Library, Ashton

Parish of Mossley, St George & St John, Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/mossleyparish

Photographs of All the Remaining Headstones & Monuments in St George's Churchyard
Monumental Inscriptions on All Headstone & Monuments in St George's Churchyard
(including those removed in 1974) (this web site has a search by name facility)
https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2551941/st.-george-parish-churchyard

A Church Near You—St George's Mossley
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15979/
with Links to all Mossley WW1 and WW2 Commonwealth War Grave Burials
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15979/page/43750/view/
Click on "Index" for a 16 page document that lists each man alphabetically by surname
Gives bio, place of burial or place of memorial, and family details

The Chancel Floor

The Chancel floor is an excellent mosaic, both in condition and in content. Along with the reredos the Chancel floor is part of the reason for the Grade II status afforded to St George's Church by English Heritage. Along the Chancel's floor central section, shown opposite, the four gospel writers and their symbols are depicted: Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John. The pattern along the sides of the floor contains a cross, and the fleur-de-lys which is used to remind us of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the raised section of the floor immediately in front of the Altar, shown below, you will find a lamb - Jesus was called *the Lamb of God* by John the Baptist. The Chancel floor was installed by J and H Patteson, Oxford Road, Manchester, and the invoice dated 13 August 1896 says the cost was £145, including communion rail and steps.



Christian Symbols and Seasons

The letters *I H S* are incorporated into many of the features to be found around St George's, and can even be found on the robe of Christ in the east window, which is at the rear of the Altar. The letters *I H S* stand for the Latin *Iesus Hominum Salvator* which translates as *Jesus Saviour of Mankind*. You will find the letters *I H S* on the red St George's Altar frontal that is shown on the front cover of this book. The red Altar frontal is used at Pentecost, and when saints who were martyrs, such as St George, are remembered. The white Altar frontal is used at Christmas and Easter, and for non-martyred saints. The purple Altar frontal is used at Advent and Lent, a black Altar frontal with gold details would be used at funerals, and the green Altar frontal, a reminder of the Creation, is used during the remainder of the year.

The Funeral Bier

The funeral bier may be up to 250 years old and used in the original church, it would have been used during funeral services as a support for coffins, and may even have been used to carry the coffins in and out of the church. Use of the bier outside, after December 1875, would have resulted in a charge of 6d ($2^1/_2$p). The bier was restored in August 2019 by Mark Akers.

The Panelling

On the panelling on each side of the reredos the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed are written, although some parts are now difficult to read.

The Choir Stalls

Look at the large carved fleur-de-lys at both ends of each pew, look for the carvings of little faces, and look for the 1948 Mothers' Union processional cross holder, this can be found near to the pulpit.


S. MARY

